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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by KOS MEDIA LTD Telephone: (01303) 817000 IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT No.391 March 21, 2010 On sale 90p



WASTE OF A GENERATION

Cutbacks put academic future of thousands at risk, says professor

By **MARIJKE COX**

A LEADING academic has condemned the Government's latest university cuts, warning they could lead to a lost generation of wasted talent.

Professor Elaine Thomas, vice-chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), said the cuts, coupled with capping of student numbers, mean competition for places is fierce.

And with UCAS, the Universities Central Council on Admissions, predicting more than 30,000 young people across the UK will fail to get on a course this year, many bright students will be forced to defer entry.

Prof Thomas said the cuts, announced by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), will have a dire impact, with the creative industries bearing the brunt.

On average the HEFCE grants make up about 40 per cent of a university's budget.

This year, cash for science, technology, engineering and mathematics has been safeguarded for 2010/11. Prof Thomas said: "While I understand the need to support these subjects, there is no doubt the future is digital and we should not neglect the design subjects that are integral to the industry."

For UCA, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, funding is being cut by 0.3 per cent which amounts to £239,000 off its approximate £22.5 million annual budget.

Places are also being capped at 7,000 despite a 94 per cent increase in applications – four times higher than the national average.

Prof Thomas said: "We must support the development of graduates. Since the advent of the global financial crisis the creative industries have been the UK's only world-leading sector. It would be tragic to see a generation of unfulfilled potential in a time when this potential is needed to take Britain into a period of sustained growth."

Other Kent universities fared better than UCA with Canterbury Christ Church receiving an 8.3 per cent rise in Government grant, which represents 25 per cent of its annual income.Vice-chancellor Prof Michael Wright said it was down to the hard work of his colleagues. "This increase provides us with a sound base to deal with the future funding challenges," he added.

The University of Kent received a 1.5 per

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



MAKING THE GRADE: Pupils collect their A-level results at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar, Canterbury. This year many will find it harder to secure a university place

MP blasts new police Christian name guidelines

POLICE have been banned from asking for a person's "Christian" name as part of new guidelines on how to avoid offending ethnic groups.

Officers in Kent are instead being told to consider using the terms "personal name" or "family name" so as not to upset people with different religious beliefs.

They are also being asked to avoid calling people "love" or "dear" over fears that some people may find the words offensive or unprofessional.

Veteran Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, who represents Maidstone and the Weald, attacked the publication.

She said: "Kent Police should be concentrating on more important matters than this. I don't think any normal person would be offended by any of these words, but I'm sure the officers will do as they are told.

"It's just going to lead to another load of paperwork to fill out."

Obsession

Adam Holloway, MP for Gravesham, said: "Sometimes we seem to hate our country. This shows a worrying obsession with being politically correct.

"The police should be concentrating their efforts on catching criminals."

The guidelines were compiled by Kent Police's diversity team for all staff.

Officers are also asked to say "mixed parentage" or "dual parentage" instead of mixed race, and to be more specific when describing people as Asian, African or African-Caribbean.

They have also been warned against comforting people by putting an arm around them, or shaking the hands of others.

A spokeswoman for the Campaign Against Political Correctness said police should not have to worry constantly about what they can say.

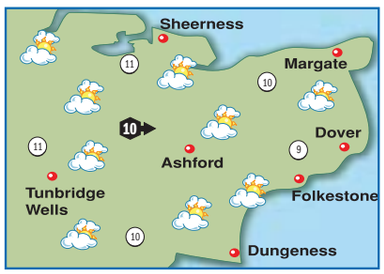
She said: "Obviously the term 'Christian name' has a religious origin, but today it's just an everyday word everybody uses. I'm not religious but would I be offended if

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Kent today



TODAY: Overcast at first with outbreaks of patchy rain and drizzle. However, it will soon brighten up with sunny intervals and variable cloud. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F). **TONIGHT:** There will be clear intervals at first, but it will cloud over with rain expected by dawn. Mild. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	drizzle	8	46	London	cloudy	12	54
Belfast	cloudy	10	50	Liverpool	cloudy	10	50
Birmingham	fair	11	52	Manchester	drizzle	10	50
B'mouth	cloudy	11	52	Newcastle	drizzle	9	48
Bristol	fair	10	50	Norwich	drizzle	10	50
Cardiff	fair	11	52	Oxford	cloudy	11	52
Cork	showers	10	50	Southsea	cloudy	11	52
Edinburgh	drizzle	9	48	S'hampton	cloudy	11	52
Glasgow	cloudy	10	50	Southport	cloudy	9	48
Isle of Man	cloudy	9	48	Swansea	cloudy	10	50
Leeds	drizzle	9	48	Torquay	cloudy	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.56am	Sunset	6.10pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	7.46am	Moonset	12.04am	6.10pm to 5.54am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	01.30	6.4	13.52	6.2	02.10	6.2	14.40	5.9
Margate	02.43	4.5	14.57	4.3	03.22	4.4	15.39	4.2
St Mary's	07.36	5.1	19.52	5.0	08.18	4.8	20.40	4.7

Week ahead

monday Dull with rain. max 11C min 4C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 12C min 3C

wednesday Dull but dry. max 11C min 4C

thursday Wet and cloudy. max 10C min 4C

friday Showers. max 11C min 5C

saturday Overcast but dry. max 11C min 4C

- **EDITOR:** Ian Patel
- **ADDRESS:** Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR.
- **WEBSITE:** www.kentnews.co.uk
- **MOBILE WAP SERVICE:** www.kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- **TELEPHONE:** 01303 817000
- **FAX (ADVERTISING):** 01303 817001
- **FAX (EDITORIAL):** 01303 817002
- **EMAIL:** EDITORIAL: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk ADVERTISING: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

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Printed by Archant Print.

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'Disgrace' of scam advice to Gurkhas

A GURKHA charity has come under fire for allegedly charging former Nepalese soldiers hundreds of pounds for unnecessary resettlement advice, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Complaints lodged to police about the Gurkha Army's Ex-Servicemen's Organisation (GAESO) suggest the charity has been making money out of last year's settlement rights victory.

Former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced in the House of Commons last May that all Gurkhas with at least four years' service in the British Army will be allowed to live in Britain.

It followed a high-profile campaign by actress Joanna Lumley, whose father was a Gurkha officer, and Shepway councillor Peter Carroll, who founded the Gurkha Justice Campaign in 2004.

Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is home to the 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles, while nearly half the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Poverty

But the victory has been hindered with problems, including former soldiers unable to pay the £400 visa fees, and now, allegations of GAESO taking £500 from Gurkhas desperate to move here from poverty-stricken Nepal.Kent Police confirmed discussions were under way after a complaint made about the charity by a former Gurkha now living in the county.

A force official said: "We have spoken with a member of the public regarding their concerns about GAESO. We are currently still in the discussion stages."

GAESO was accused in Parliament last week of charging former Gurkha servicemen £500 each for unnecessary resettlement advice before referring them to British solicitors under the Legal Aid scheme. KOS Media contacted GAESO, which is based in Nepal, and received no response, but national reports claim the president of the charity, Padam Gurung, denies allegations of malpractice.

Defence minister Kevan Jones has launched an inquiry, stating there was already an MoD-run office in Nepal providing resettlement advice for free.

Dhan Gurung, a Folkestone town councillor and the first ex-Gurkha soldier to take elected office in Britain, said it would be disgraceful if a charity was exploiting ex-servicemen.

"It is absolutely wrong that Gurkhas are being charged for something that should be free," he said. "Joanna Lumley, Peter Carroll and I fought hard for Gurkhas to have settlement rights and then disgraceful middlemen try to take what they can."

Cllr Gurung said he believed there was more than one organisation using the Gurkhas' plight to make money.

"The Government needs to give free advice and issue free visas so middlemen stop taking advantage," he said.

"These ex-soldiers can't afford to pay this money. They are already having to sell off their land and stock to pay for visas. They can't afford to pay for unnecessary advice as well. People taking money from the Gurkhas have to be stopped."

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world with the average wage less than £150 a year – about 35p a day.

Why Tory gains could mean net loss for county

INTERNET experts have warned that super-fast broadband may never reach parts of Kent if the Tories win power at the next general election.

As detailed in their recently-published technology manifesto, the Conservatives propose to use private investment to fund the network of fibre-optic cables needed to provide homes with connection speeds of up to 100MB per second.

However, diehard Tories living in rural Kent may be the last to receive the technology – if they ever do – due to the expense of installing the cables in sparsely-populated areas.

Adam Jastrzebski, a reader in electronic engineering at the University of Kent, said such a scheme would be unlikely to succeed.

He said: "What company would want to invest in something which isn't going to pay back that investment? I live in Throwley, a village south of Faversham, which covers about five square miles and contains about 130 homes. But we don't want to pay over-the-odds for our internet so it wouldn't be cost-effective for firms to run cables to every house there.

"Fibre-optic cables are useful when you have a large number of homes in densely-populated areas, but I think there are many rural areas in Kent that will never receive super-fast broadband by these means."

Mr Jastrzebski said a better way would be to link super-fast broadband to one building, such as a community hall, then route it wirelessly to the rest of the community.

Shared

The most common method of broadband supply is ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line), which is currently split on a ratio of about 50 to one. This means that whatever service a person might subscribe to, they have to share it with 49 others. And depending on how many of the 50 are online at the same time, the speeds could end up being significantly slower.

Mr Jastrzebski said: "Speeds need to be higher because we share them with many other people. As we rely more on the internet it becomes even more important to have fast speeds.

"It's positive that both Labour and the Conservatives recognise the importance of broadband, but if you base your solutions solely on economics you will never get super-fast broadband in rural areas."

Kent County Council cabinet member for corporate support services, Cllr Roger Gough, admitted it would cost £1 billion to deliver fibre-optics to non-urban areas in Kent alone.

He added: "The requirement for local strategies has always been recognised. The number of 'not spots' with no internet access has been reduced from 30,000 to 10,000 through investment.

"This approach has been extended to address the more difficult challenge of the ever-increasing demand for broadband capacity.

"We have proposed strategies to encourage private sector investment, identify methods for reducing costs and take every opportunity to make better use of infrastructure.

"This includes, if possible, providing wireless access from public buildings and making sure any new development has it built in."



Wasted talent

FROM FRONT PAGE

cent rise in funding and the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway, saw an increase of 2.2 per cent.

A spokesman for Greenwich said the Medway campus had done particularly well.

"The Government has confirmed funding for an extra 250 places at Medway next year, and we are recruiting now in subjects such as nursing, science, information technology, business and engineering.

"As well as more students, we'll have more staff to teach them. Our stable financial position means we are investing in more than 20 new academic posts, including seven for our campus at Medway."

These additions are despite the university over-recruiting by 233 places in 2009/10 and now facing a hefty fine of £3,700 per student.

Kent University spokesman Gary Hughes said: "We have just received the formal funding letter and, while we will not know our capital budget until July, we can confirm a real terms cut of almost four per cent on a like-for-like basis – in line with what we expected.

"However, we have been granted additional funding to take further students at our Medway campus and this mitigates the impact on overall teaching funds."

Further education colleges, of which there are seven in Kent, received a funding rise of 2.2 per cent. Total expenditure by the Government to universities was £6.5 billion, for teaching, research and innovation. Despite Kent's universities faring better than others across the UK, industry insiders believe a sustainable funding structure needs to be put in place.

Prof Steve Smith, president of Universities UK, an action group for higher education institutions, said: "As we approach the budget, we want the Government to commit to providing 10,000 fully-funded additional student places in 2010-11 – in part to make up for the approximately 6,000 fewer places for new entrants this year."

French invasion purely academic



MAGNIFIQUE: Canterbury's attractions for French visitors extend to the city's campuses

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

HUNDREDS of French students are descending on the county's universities to take advantage of the UK's high academic reputation and the 'study now, pay later' loan system.

At the University of Kent more than 300 French students are enrolled on undergraduate and postgraduate courses, with 175 of those on the politics course alone. Across the UK, the number of French students is more than 13,000, which could fill one university.

Annual loans for tuition fees, approximately £3,200, can be paid back after the course or when graduates earn £15,000 or above – this applies to people from across the EU.

But with budget cuts and capped numbers announced this week, British students hoping to get a place at one of the universities are already competing against their counterparts for limited places.

A spokeswoman at the University of Kent said recent budgets will not affect the amount of international students accepted.

She added that it is important to get a good mix of students to enhance the experience.

"Diversity is a key aspect of the university's international strategy," she said.

"It broadens horizons and equips students She said the university has always had international students, with 136 nationalities represented on campus.

"We've had good numbers of French students over many years, but numbers are increasing," she said. "The student experience in the UK is very different. There is a supportive learning environment, holistic approach, pastoral support and campus life.

"There is also close contact with academic staff. This doesn't happen in France as classes are normally very large.

"We are also the closest UK university to most of France and have excellent transport links so it is easy for students to get home."

Of the 305 currently studying at the University of Kent, 260 are undergraduates and 45 postgraduates, with the most popular subjects being politics, law and languages.

Five-a-side death a tragic accident

A KEEN footballer who died during a five-a-side match lost his life in a "desperately tragic accident", a coroner has ruled.



ACCIDENT: David Winslow

David Winslow was fatally injured after hitting the back of his head against a wall at the Black Lion leisure centre on September 22, last year, just two days before his 27th birthday.

An inquest into his death was held at County Hall, Maidstone, on Thursday. The court heard how Mr Winslow was fatally injured while attempting an acrobatic shot on goal.

Referee Michael Lane described how Mr Winslow ran down the side of the indoor sports hall before shaping for a shot and colliding with the wall. He said: "David hit the wall with an awful force".

A post-mortem examination showed he suffered a fractured skull and bruising to the brain. Mid-Kent and Medway coroner Roger Sykes recorded a verdict of accidental death.

He said: "This was a desperately tragic accident."

To view, search 'Finchcocks' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks discovers the hidden gem of Finchcocks Musical Museum in Kent

Relief at lower jobless rate

JOBLESS figures for Kent and Medway have increased by more than 5,000 in a year.

Last month, a total of 37,744 people were claiming benefits throughout the county, compared with 32,694 in February 2010.

The figure has also gone up 416 claimants from January this year, although Medway on its own experienced a reduction of 63 during the same period. Minister for the South East Jonathan Shaw – also the MP for Chatham and Aylesford – said the statistics were not as bad as first predicted.

He said: "This is a worldwide recession and we anticipated there would be high levels of unemployment, but they're not as high as we or media commentators predicted and that's saving an awful lot of money.

"There also hasn't been the high level of repossessions predicted by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, meaning people are not being forced out in the same way as they were in Medway during the early 1990s recession."

Nationally the number of jobseekers has fallen by 32,300 to 1.59 million – or 7.8 per cent of the total working age population.

In Kent the figure is 3.6 per cent and in Medway 4.8 per cent.

Mr Shaw said: "The overall trend is down, but it's a mixed picture across the country.

"We're not out of the woods yet and there's still a lot of work left to do. In Kent we work closely with KCC, which is a big supporter of the Government's Future Jobs Fund.

"We are aware of the need to put in extra investment but the Tories would cut the fund now. Is that going to aid our recovery? No – it will only make things worse."

Are police guidelines too PC?

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

somebody asked me what my Christian name was? Of course not.

"There are so many naming systems it would be impossible to expect police to use them all, so why not just stick to the most common one?"

Other examples of political correctness in the police include Scotland Yard instructing officers to use the term "multi-perpetrator rape" because "gang rape" is too emotive.

And last year it was revealed Warwickshire police had been warned against saying "evenin' all" because it might confuse people of "different cultural backgrounds" as to the time of day.

Kent's Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge defended the guidelines.

He said: "It's important we recognise and value fundamental human rights and provide services that meet the changing and diverse needs of the county's communities, visitors and workforce.

"One of our core values is that we will treat everyone with fairness, respect and dignity.

"As such, we need to ensure officers and staff have an understanding and awareness of some of the faiths and ethnicities found in Kent so they can engage more sensitively with, and have more confidence in, the various cultural and faith backgrounds.

"In doing so it will help provide the most appropriate and professional services to those people."

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Cheap clothes help us stay in fashion

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

AS THE generation who had the world at their feet and years of affluence ahead of them, some say the 'baby boomers' were the luckiest generation of all time.

Born in the years following the Second World War, when the birth rate hit an unprecedented high, 'boomers' were to benefit from prosperous childhoods, financially secure upbringings and comforts unknown to the generations before them.

They were also to pioneer cultural change with their new ideas and rejection of traditional values.

The social revolution of the 60s marked the start of new trends – including the miniskirt and Mod culture – which were to develop over future decades.

In recent times, this is highlighted by females of the 'baby boom' era, avoiding frumpy age-related dress for more youthful styles.

Instead of the pre-war traditions, the major influence of the 'boomers' has meant that today, middle-aged women are often seen shopping in stores more likely to be used by their daughters.

But new research at the University of Kent has found the long-running myth that female 'boomers' refuse to adopt frumpy dress in order to age differently to the generations before them, is in fact just that, a myth.

Frequency

Instead, Julia Twigg, professor of social policy and sociology at the university's school of social policy, sociology and social research, found this widely held assumption to be slightly off course, with cheap clothing the real driving force behind the change in fashions.

She said: "The massive expansion of cheap fashion in the early 21st century has affected all age groups, drawing them in to more frequent shopping and faster fashion cycles, though not into spending a larger proportion of their income.

"Clothes are 70 per cent cheaper than they were in the 60s."

Prof Twigg said while older women are shopping for clothes more often than their parents' generation, shopping habits and fashion sense are an effect of the times – and n attitudes of a generation.

"In the search for new markets, fashion has been extended to children and older people," said Prof Twigg.

"As a result, women over 75 are now shopping for clothes more frequently than those who were in their teens and 20s in the 60s.

"Therefore, although 'boomers' are indeed increasingly engaged with fashion in the 21st century, it's a myth that they are different.

"It is just that they are responding to the mood of the times like everyone else."

The research was carried out by Prof Twigg and Dr Shinobu Majima, associate professor in economic history, using data from the Family Expenditure Survey, which shows household spending on goods and services alongside income.

They examined the shopping habits of women for clothes between 1961 and 2006.



Picture: REX

FASHION INSTINCT: Sharon Stone, who is 53, is typical of the increasing number of children of the 60s who avoid dressing like they're middle aged

Cuddly toys help to calm children

KENT Police's road patrol officers have launched a new scheme to help comfort children involved in serious car crashes.

The new initiative will see each of the 22 traffic vehicles carrying 'trauma teddies' to give to distressed youngsters while officers deal with the incident.

It is hoped the measure will help reduce the stress suffered by children up to the age of six, who are trapped or involved in a collision, either as a passenger or pedestrian.

The idea was the brainchild of traffic officer PC Darren Chapman, who has attended many distressing callouts involving children and decided to contact a Kent toy manufacturer.

Luckily for the team, the toy firm – who wishes to remain anonymous – donated about 100 bears as well as other cuddly toys for free.

To see this search 'Spadework' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



People with learning disabilities are helping with the running of a farmshop and café

MP: Arrests are being prevented by bureaucracy

ASHFORD MP Damian Green has said that Kent Police were put under pressure from the Home Office after he highlighted the problem of red tape and bureaucracy stopping them from making an arrest.

Mr Green was accompanying police officers in Ashford town centre on a Saturday night when they encountered a drunken man in one of the high street pubs.

He said: "He was swearing, very aggressive and looking for a fight. The police managed to calm him down and took him out of the pub and then sent him on his way."

Mr Green said it was relatively early on in the police's patrol time at about 11pm.

He said: "I asked them why did you not arrest him and they explained if they did they would all have to go back to the station and that would take them out of the town centre for hours. Which would leave the town centre unprotected."

The MP said he had no criticism of the actual officers involved, adding: "In context what they did was perfectly sensible. I have no criticism at all of the officers. They were doing their job as they saw best and their judgement was fine.

"What I do criticise is a system that means the paperwork is so onerous that frontline officers can't do their job properly.

"We need to release them from this so they can do the job we want them to."

Mr Green's comments were immediately countered by Kent Police Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge, who said an arrest would only have taken an officer about 30 minutes and they would be looking into what happened on the night in question.



SPEAKING OUT: MP Damian Green

He said he wanted to reassure the public in Ashford that in any 24-hour period the police had a response team that included police constables and sergeants.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson has also criticised Mr Green for making false claims, but Mr Green said pressure from Government did not help the situation.

He said: "This is not a question of funding but the number of pressures put on police by politicians. The public want the police to make our streets safer and I think the Government should get off their backs.

"I know Kent Police were phoned by the Home Office after I gave an interview about this. I don't think Home Office officials should be watching TV and then getting the police involved in politics, which is what they have done now."



THE INTERVIEW



BY JANE CONNOLLY

Best lyrics come straight from the heart, says singer

FOR singer-songwriter Caroline Ty, writing from the heart is the way to produce a perfect lyric.

With her electro-jazz tunes and bluesy vocals, Ty aims to combat the clichés found in much of today's pop music.

The 31-year-old from Tunbridge Wells believes that sincerity is a real breath of fresh air in the current market.

"Lots of pop music at the moment is about trying to write to a specific formula, because they are tailored towards making money or having a hit," she said.

"If you are putting that aside and writing from the heart, something that is quite sincere and personal, you will naturally avoid clichés anyway. It's terrible when you hear a new song for the first time and you can guess what the next line will be.

"There's a hunger for something original, and that's where unsigned bands are coming into their own at the moment."

Her next release, Love and Honey, is a four-song EP that showcases her dark lyrical themes and fantastic vocals.

Defining her sound as electro-jazz/pop, she draws her influences from artists like Alison Moyet, Depeche Mode, New Order and Massive Attack.

"My music has an electro flavour but vocally it's more of a bluesy sound, as I don't have a pop voice like Kylie Minogue," she said.

"I didn't want a cold, mechanical sound and I knew the sort of organic vocals I record. It's not an obvious pop sound and it's about blending those two elements together."

Alongside her career in retail, Ty spends a lot of time recording songs in her home studio, which she revealed was easy to equip.

"It's just me, a computer, a keyboard and a microphone. Fortunately, the way music software is now, you have a lot of power in the computer," she said. "You can record your own samples and use that equipment to get a good sound. You need to go to professionals for the final mixing and mastering, but I like to get feedback.



SINCERE: Singer Caroline Ty believes in writing about what she feels

"There is a tendency, when you're working on your own, to be in a bit of a bubble. But when you take it to someone else, you can ask how it can be improved."

With a passionate interest in film-making and animation, Ty would like to write music for film projects as well as for other vocalists.

The London-born artist takes her lyrical influences from songwriters like Leonard Cohen and Nick Cave, while the title of one of her new songs – Whistle and I'll Come To You – was inspired by an MR James ghost story with a similar name, a phrase that stayed with her long after first reading it.

"It's a song about devotion, I guess. Not in a soft or pathetic way, but it's basically saying 'I'll be there if you need me'."

Love and Honey will be available to download from www.carolinety.com and all major digital music sites from March 29.

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By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

MPs say it's time to start charging foreign lorries

FOREIGN lorry drivers will have to start paying to use Kent's roads, if a committee of MPs gets its way.

And transport groups have backed the controversial recommendation by the all-party body of MPs.

According to the Commons public accounts committee, overseas freight traffic should be regulated more closely because they pay less for fuel, drive unsafe vehicles and frequently flout road safety laws.

Such a proposal could be of great significance to Kent, which receives thousands of foreign HGVs every year through the Channel Tunnel and Port of Dover.

Any regular users of the M20 or M2 will be aware of the high number of overseas trucks passing through the county every day.

Between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008, overseas vehicles contributed to 72 accidents and 113 injuries on the county's roads.

However, none of the 841 drivers caught by Kent's speed cameras received fines, unlike the 41,585 British road-users snapped.

Safety

Jo Tanner, spokeswoman for the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association, said the committee was right to be concerned about the poor safety record of foreign trucks.

She added: "Tired drivers operating vehicles in poor mechanical condition are accidents waiting to happen.

"Vosa (the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) has done a good job in clamping down on non-compliant foreign lorries at the roadside, but because there is no meaningful monitoring of these vehicles, authorities have no idea who is on our roads or where they are travelling to or from.

"Overseas operators effectively drive on the UK's roads for free, as they contribute nothing to Treasury coffers while the British taxpayer picks up the tab for the damage they cause."

Last year police were given new powers to issue on-the-spot fines to foreign motorists and add points to their licences.

However, the public accounts committee says such drivers still contribute to 10 per cent of all lorry accidents, despite only three per cent of all lorry drivers on the UK's roads being foreign.

An AA spokesman said: "UK drivers often feel intimidated by large foreign trucks because they know their car may be concealed to the foreign lorry driver due to them being seated in the 'wrong side' of the cab.

"This can be particularly worrying when overtaking them on motorways.

"Although bound by the same driving hours rules, there is a sense some foreign lorry drivers may be more tired and perhaps unfamiliar with UK driving practices."

According to the committee's report, foreign HGV drivers also "contribute little" in the way of revenue, which campaigners say is largely due to them filling up on cheaper fuel outside the UK.

Richard Ashworth, Conservative MEP for Kent, said he had long campaigned for foreign lorry drivers to have to pay to use British roads.

He added: "Lorries run by Continental owners are able to fill up with fuel in Luxembourg – where diesel is significantly cheaper – before delivering or collecting cargo in the UK. This puts them at a massive competitive advantage to UK hauliers, who do not deliver on the mainland.

"Other EU countries have a method of charging foreign lorries – such as road tolls or, in the case of non-EU Switzerland, a heavy vehicle fee – while foreign HGVs are not required to pay a penny toward the maintenance of UK roads."

Transport minister Paul Clark, who is MP for Gillingham and Rainham, said the Government would not be able to charge foreign lorry drivers without doing the same for British ones.

He added: "When you look at the various levels of taxation and expenditure in different countries and the different costs involved, there's not a great deal of difference.

"The foreign lorry drivers are contributing to the economy because the goods they are carrying are going to companies that need them.

"What's important is that we have a robust system in terms of safety, which is why we've given Vosa an additional £24 million to employ more inspectors to do greater checking of vehicles not complying with safety standards."

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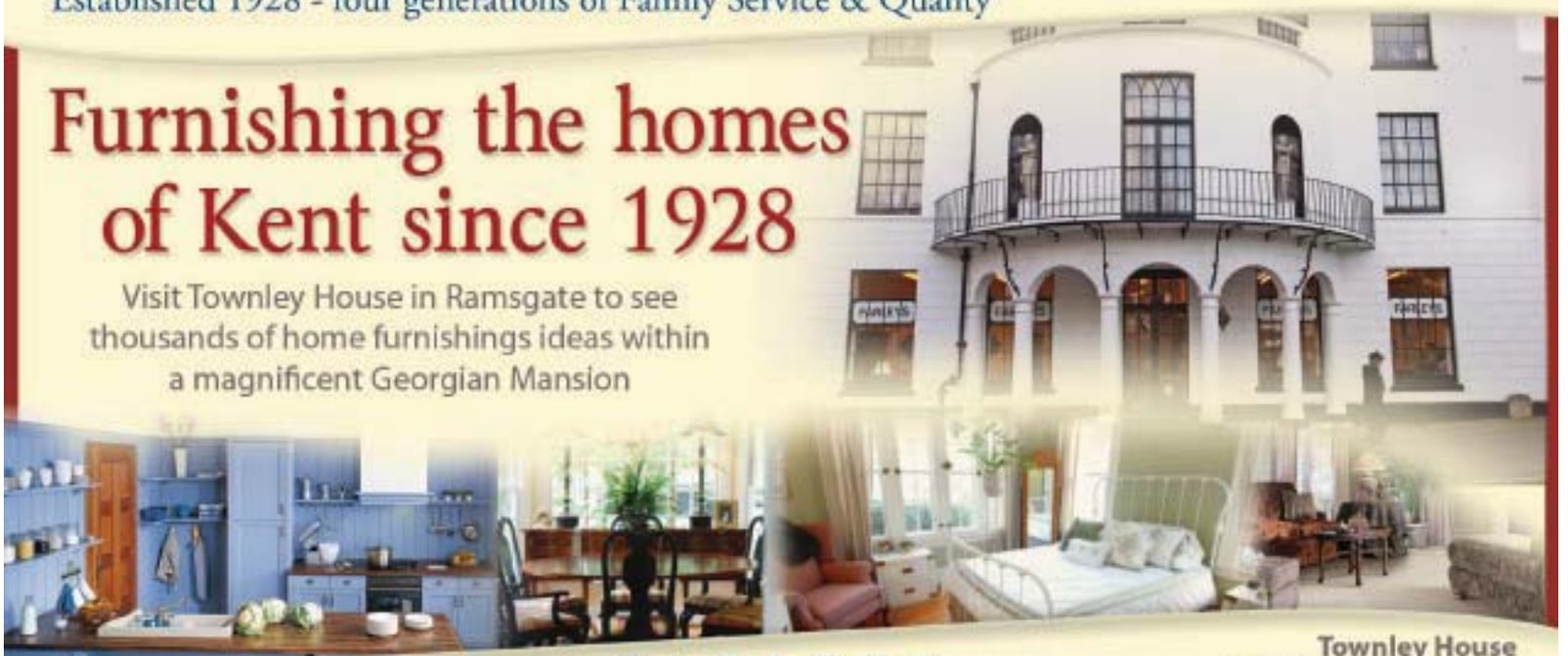
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Charity worker helps 'Avatar' tribe in fight against mining firm

INDIAN tribesmen involved in a real-life version of the Hollywood blockbuster Avatar have received a helping hand in their fight to save a sacred mountain, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The Dongria Kondh community of Orissa state believe the Niyam Dongar hill – part of the Niyamgiri mountain – is the physical manifestation of their greatest god Niyam Raja, but to the British mining firm Vedanta it is simply a $2 billion bauxite deposit.

Former Broadstairs resident Lindsay Duffield, 25, works for the Survival International charity and is one of many people supporting the tribe's battle to save what has been their home for thousands of years.

She admitted that their story is remarkably similar to that of James Cameron's record-breaking science fiction film about an alien race that fights against a mining company's plans to drill into their sacred tree.

Miss Duffield said: "Avatar has been very timely because I think it's opened people's eyes as to the reality of what's going on around the world with tribal communities having their land stolen for commercial gain.

"The Dongria have been fighting against this company for years and a lot of Indian people have been trying to help them because the effects of the mountain being mined would be devastating to the tribe's identity.

Barriers

"The company in question had never bothered to even talk to them about it or given them any idea of the implications. But there was something we could do, and that was to tell the world."

Miss Duffield attended Upton Junior School and Dane Court Grammar School in Broadstairs before going on to study international relations and social anthropology at Scotland's University of St Andrews.

Since joining Survival International in 2007, she has visited the Dongria community three times.

She said: "I've spent time in the villages asking the men, women and children what the hills mean to them and what they stand to lose, and the clear message I've received is that they don't want the mine.

"They feel very strongly about it and have been protesting and resisting the operation for years. They've dug ditches, formed human barriers and done everything they can to create awareness."

This week a report by a team of experts from the Indian government concluded that the possible destruction of the Dongria Kondh as a tribal group was "too serious a consequence to ignore". It also advised the government to not allow any further diversion of forest land until their rights have been properly recognised.

Miss Duffield said: "There's definitely a sense of improvement. The company has most of the legal clearance it needs to start mining, but the Indian minister who makes the final decision has said it won't be allowed to until the rights of the tribe have been properly assessed. Changes are happening and part of that is down to international pressure."

Visit www.survivalinternational.org for more information.



Picture: WWW.SURVIVALINTERNATIONAL.ORG

HELPER: Miss Duffield is trying to save tribe

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Awards night recognises county's grand designs

Kent Design honours the architects who created some of our most iconic buildings

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A RESTORED mausoleum, a house built from a railway carriage and a town giving cars and pedestrians shared space were some of the winners at the Kent Design Awards.

The prestigious ceremony, organised by Kent County Council, saw architects behind some of the county's most iconic buildings recognised for their work.

Of the winners, the Darnley Mausoleum, in Cobham Wood, near Gravesend, received the first-ever project of the year award in memory of former leader of KCC Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, who died in August, 2008.

His widow Tess presented the award in her late husband's memory for the project's building conservation and craftsmanship.

A spokeswoman from Gravesham Borough Council, one of the partners in the restoration programme, said: "This is another exceptional achievement that both residents, and everybody who worked on the project, can be proud of.

"The Darnley Mausoleum is a wonderful part of Gravesham's heritage and we are delighted to see that people outside the borough and the project also appreciate the restoration of the building."

Canterbury architects Purcell Miller Tritton and PAYE Stonework and Restoration of London were applauded for their "labour of love" which brought the 18th century listed building back to life after years of vandalism, and a major fire in 1980.

Judges also paid tribute to the Cobham Ashenbank Management Scheme which helped in the huge task of restoring the mausoleum and associated buildings, taking 12 years to complete.

Usability

Another architect praised for its work was Allison Brookes Associates for the Quarterhouse in Folkestone's old town, the heart of the new Creative Quarter.

The 220-seat multi-purpose auditorium and cultural centre, funded by a £3.5 million grant from County Hall and £500,000 from the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), was selected as the winner of the public buildings category.

KCC's innovative Ashford shared space scheme, which sees pedestrians and cars sharing the roads, picked up the town and village renaissance award.

And an unusual beach house, located near Dungeness power station and made from a 19th century railway carriage, was named the residential minor development winner.

Judge Mathew Woodhead, director of urban design at DHA Planning in Maidstone, said the standard of buildings in and around Kent is exceptionally high.

"These awards are a perfect way to celebrate design and the work that goes into these iconic buildings and schemes," he said.

Mr Woodhead said although there were different categories with unique designs, there were four things judges were looking for.

"These were how the building interacts with the surrounding area; usability and who it was designed for; quality of the architecture; and whether key urban design principles were followed," he said.

"Personally, I was really impressed by the Quarterhouse. It is an iconic building for the community and it's already attracting lots of musicians and artists.

"It's in the old part of town and despite being modern architecture, the actual building follows the same principles as the older ones around it."

Mr Woodhead said this year's awards saw a high number of quality schools buildings, with St James the Great Primary and Nursery School in East Malling scooping the winning prize for its innovative design.

"The schools we saw were of a very high standard which is really pleasing, especially as they are funded by Kent County Council," he said.

"This event really shows off the fantastic talent we have here in the county and the iconic buildings people should be proud of."

KCC leader Paul Carter added: "This has been an exceptional year for the Kent Design Awards, with some outstanding entries.

Superb

"The Darnley Mausoleum has been a superb restoration project, with its fine workmanship, for an internationally important heritage project of which Kent can be proud.

"However, some ground-breaking contemporary buildings have also been recognised for their contribution to the quality of life in Kent."









CONSERVATION AND CRAFTSMANSHIP WINNER
- The Darnley Mausoleum, Cobham

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENAISSANCE WINNER
- The Ashford Shared Space (pictured below)

RESIDENTIAL OVERALL WINNER
- The Quays, Chatham Maritime

RESIDENTIAL (MAJOR DEVELOPMENT) WINNER
- The Quays, Chatham Maritime

RESIDENTIAL (MINOR DEVELOPMENT) WINNER
- El Ray, Dungeness

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RETAIL WINNER
- Deal Pier

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (GENERAL) WINNER
- Quarterhouse, Folkestone (pictured right)

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (SCHOOLS) WINNER
- St.James the Great Primary & Nursery School, East Malling

PROJECT OF THE YEAR:
THE LORD SANDY BRUCE-LOCKHART AWARD
- The Darnley Mausoleum, Cobham (top before and after)

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A Board Meeting held in public will take place on:
Thursday 25 March 2010 starting at 2pm
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Prior to the Board Meeting, the following activities and information will be available:

- 11am - 12.30pm. An interactive display of information on our healthcare services and a chance to meet local clinical staff
- A demonstration of our new website and DVDs showcasing our services
- 1pm – 1.30pm. A chance to question senior NHS staff on a 'Question Time' panel
- Copies of the Agenda and papers will be available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk

For questions relating to the agenda please contact:
Pauline Gardiner
Corporate Services Manager
Tel: 01227 795037
Email: pauline.gardiner@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk

Extra police funds

THE Home Office has given Kent Police an additional £100,000 to help reduce serious youth violence as part of the existing programme of community safety partnership events.

Kent Police has been participating in the Home Office's Tackling Knives Action Programme since April, 2009, with a range of enforcement, intervention and prevention activities including school workshops.

Serious violence in Kent has reduced by 7.5 per cent during April to September, 2009, compared to the same period in 2008.

Kent Police are currently working with a private company to run an initiative from April that will include workshops at up to 40 schools across Kent focusing on Year Nine students.

Vue Idle's new film

THE new film by Monty Python star Eric Idle, Not the Messiah (He's A Very Naughty Boy), is being shown at the Thanet Vue on Thursday, March 25, as part of a one-off viewing at digital cinemas across the UK.

A comedic oratorio written by Eric Idle and John Du Prez and inspired by Monty Python's Life of Brian, it was filmed at its only European performance at the Royal Albert Hall in October, 2009, an event held to celebrate 40 years of Monty Python.

It features featuring guest appearances from Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam.

Close season starts

ANGLERS have been warned that the close season began this week banning fishing in all rivers, streams and drains in Kent to protect stocks during their breeding season.

The season lasts until June 15, and anglers will have to hold a new fishing licence by the start of the season, or face hefty fines.

A rod licence from the Environment Agency costs between £3.75 for one day's coarse fishing to £72 for a year's salmon fishing.

New KCC boss's strawberry gaffe was YouTube hit

COUNTY Hall's new boss has been warned to steer clear of the management tactics that caused her former employer to be "ridiculed" by the press, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Last week Kent County Council announced that Katherine Kerswell – formerly of Northamptonshire County Council – had been chosen to replace the authority's current chief executive Peter Gilroy, who steps down in May.

Cabinet members who interviewed her for the post said they were impressed with her breadth of vision and energy, but according to at least one politician that energy can sometimes be used in the wrong way.

Referring to a confusing motivational speech in which Mrs Kerswell advised staff to "taste the strawberry" as a metaphor for customer service, Northants Labour group leader Cllr John McGhee said she made the council a laughing stock.

A video of the speech in January, 2008, attracted more than 4,000 hits on YouTube and was used as the basis for a series of comical television and newspaper reports.

But rather than hide behind her comments, Mrs Kerswell capitalised on the publicity and launched the council information website www.tastethestrawberry.com.

Cllr McGhee said: "In my opinion she's had some good ideas and some not so good ideas.

"She was brought in at a very difficult economic time when people were being laid off, but she kept the authority performing well. However – and I've said this to her – ideas like 'taste the strawberry' were just ridiculous when she should have been concentrating on more serious issues.

"The speech she made was supposed to build confidence in her staff, but personally I think we became a laughing stock.



IN CHARGE: Katherine Kerswell

"Everybody just used it as a joke and ridiculed it. My view is that I hope she steers clear of doing something similar in Kent, because I'm sure they won't want to be ridiculed either."

Despite his criticism of the slogan, Cllr McGhee said he thought Mrs Kerswell had been a "reasonable" chief executive and that she would be successful in her new role.

That sentiment is shared by both the leader of the Conservative-led authority Cllr Jim Harker, and the opposition Lib Dem group leader Cllr Brendan Glynane.

Cllr Glynane said: "The chief executive before her didn't get on with the leader of the council and there was a breakdown in communications, but in two-and-a-half years she has started to put the plans in place to actually change the council for the better.

"She's certainly very open and you can always go and talk to her, so I think Kent has made a wise choice in appointing her and I would say that's a view shared by most councillors."

At KCC she will be known under the new title of group managing director, and will remain on her current salary of £197,000.

Leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We were all enormously impressed by Katherine's breadth of vision and energy, and her absolute commitment to placing Kent citizens at the heart of the services we deliver."

The group's recommendation will go for confirmation to the full council at its next meeting on April 1.

Should all go according to plan, Mrs Kerswell will start in Kent at the beginning of July.

• OUTGOING KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy has received an award for outstanding contribution to local government.

Mr Gilroy, who worked in social care for 28 years before landing Kent's top job, was handed the accolade at a ceremony hosted by Improvement and Efficiency South East.





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SMOKEFREE

Officer in court for young mum's death

A POLICE officer charged with killing a young mother by driving his unmarked car dangerously has appeared at a court.

PC Nigel Brown, 46, a member of the Metropolitan Police's specialist crime directorate, is accused of causing the death of mother-of-three Felicity Austin, 29, in a head-on collision on the A21, near Tunbridge Wells, on May 5 last year.

Miss Austin, a nursery worker who lived in Hadlow, near Tonbridge, died from injuries suffered when her car involved in a crash with a vehicle being driven by PC Brown on Pembury Road, north of the Longfield Road roundabout.

PC Brown appeared at West Kent Magistrates Court in London Road, Sevenoaks, on Tuesday morning for a 45-minute hearing.

The officer stood in the back row of the court and not in the dock. He did not speak during the hearing and did not enter a plea.

The case against him was sent to Maidstone Crown Court. The officer was released on unconditional bail to appear at the crown court on March 29 for a preliminary hearing.

Outside the court Vijay Mehan, of Fentons Solicitors, issued a statement on behalf of Simon Huggins, 35, of Hadlow, who was engaged to Miss Austin.

Mr Mehan said: "Simon is pleased that this case has finally come to court and also wishes to thank the residents of Hadlow, who have provided both support and some comfort to his family at this tragic time."

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

King of Pop's furniture goes up for auction

Fans given chance to own items Jacko bought for Kent mansion



MICHAEL Jackson fans wanting to live like the King of Pop can snap up the furniture that was going to decorate the rented Kent mansion where he was to stay during his marathon run of concerts, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

He was due to move in to the 28-bedroom Foxbury Manor, Chislehurst, while he performed a record-breaking 50 shows at the O2 in Greenwich.

But following his untimely death on June 26, 2009, aged 50, the shows never happened and a warehouse was stacked full of his furniture.

Now an auction is being staged over three days in Las Vegas where the furniture and other property is expected to raise around $1 million.





HOME COMFORTS: Two of the pieces created for legend Michael Jackson (top)

Included in the 22 lots of furniture is a nine-seat sofa worth about £100,000 which should have been shipped to the manor for the duration of the This Is It shows. It has red velvet button-tufted upholstery and details in 24-carat gold.

A writing desk with ivory details worth £80,000, and a £40,000 armchair tufted with red velvet and gold embroidery, are also up for grabs.

They are being sold in June by Julian's Auction at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Nevada.

The auction house has organised an exhibition recreating Jackson's Kent home, at Newbridge Silverware's Museum of Style Icons in Ireland from March 16-May 30.

Haunted

Among the other 200 lots is Jackson's red Beat It jacket, sunglasses which the pop icon worn on stage, a military jacket that he wore when he married Debbie Rowe, his gloves, a beaded shirt, and a handwritten and signed Bad lyrics.

The museum said: "This is the first-ever public viewing of the magnificent furniture that Michael personally commissioned for his Kent home.

"Each piece of furniture includes a nameplate from the factory stating 'Made Exclusively for Michael Jackson'."

Jackson was reported to have splashed out £1m to rent Foxbury which is near the haunted Chislehurst Caves.

The £15m Grade-II listed manor has an underground cinema, a vast lake in its eight-acre estate and is believed to be owned by a wealthy family from Turkey attracted by the 28,000 sq ft of floor space.

It was built in 1875, and designed by David Brandon, Queen Victoria's favourite architect and was used as a retreat for bishops, and missionaries' wives and children during the 1940s.

The auction event is titled Music Icons and includes items related to other stars such a lock of Elvis Presley's hair, a Fender guitar played by Jimi Hendrix in the 1950s, and Britney Spears' stage costumes.

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By **CHRIS MURPHY**

New rehab scheme aims to help 1,000 'most wanted'

THE county's 1,000 'most wanted' offenders are being targeted by an initiative to slash crime figures.

Senior crime chiefs are in despair because those figures are being skewed by a relatively small group of persistent offenders.

Now the authorities have set up six Integrated Offender Management units (IOM), covering the county.

Staff at the units will manage the most problematic offenders responsible for crimes like burglaries and anti-social behaviour.

The units will be run by Kent Police, Kent Probation, Kent Youth Offending Service and Medway Youth Offending Team.

Rehabilitation

Offenders who continually commit crime will be dealt with by the police, while those who stay on the straight and narrow will get support such as help in finding education, employment or training and help with drug or alcohol problems.

The idea is to break the constant circle of crime, punishment, crime.

IOM project manager Claire Gatward said: "We are truly working in partnership. We are pooling our resources and using them to maximum effect.

"Our aim is to reduce reoffending and we will work with offenders in a very targeted way to help them turn their lives around.

"However, they are all warned in no uncertain terms that if they do reoffend we will bring them to justice."

The group says prison is not always the right answer, especially for less serious offenders, and tough community sentence can be more effective in rehabilitating offenders by turning them away from crime.

Statistics show the rate of reoffending after community sentences falling from 38.1 per cent to 36.1 per cent between 2000 and 2007.

Last week KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy told KOS Media that high numbers of reoffending former prisoners were having an "adversely large impact" on the county.

He said many ex-cons were "dumped" in poorer areas of the county, where they went on to reoffend.

Angela Slaven, director of youth offending services and substance misuse at Kent County Council and a member of the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said: "This initiative reflects the seriousness with which youth crime is taken in the county and its success should contribute to the public feeling more confident in the youth justice system."

And Deputy Chief Constable of Kent Adrian Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, added: "This is exactly the kind of multi-agency initiative the KCJB was set up to encourage. I am delighted that it is now up and running throughout Kent and Medway."

Embrace

Alan Dowie, director of offender management at Kent Probation said: "We need to recognise that crime cannot be solved by criminal justice agencies alone; real lasting solutions need to embrace capture and punishment for crimes that have already been committed as well as actions to ensure that offenders turn away from future crime."

For more information visit www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent.

£4m unclaimed by sufferers

MORE than £4 million in disability benefits is going unclaimed by people in Kent diagnosed with terminal cancer, according to a Macmillan Cancer Support report.

More than 58 per cent of terminally ill cancer patients in the South East are dying without receiving either Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance (AA) – benefits to which they are automatically entitled.

The charity says low take-up is due to people not knowing their entitlement, so it has launched an online guide at www.macmillan-.org.uk/benefitsmadeclear to help people make claims.





You've got nothing to fear from dementia sufferers

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN challenging public perceptions of dementia has been launched after figures revealed one in three people are uncomfortable around sufferers.

The new NHS Living Well drive employs people with dementia to educate the public with the message: "I have dementia – I also have a life".

And to support the campaign, adult social service officials in Kent are calling for people who are worried they have the condition to come forward, get diagnosed and use the county's support network.

Emma Hanson, joint commissioning manager for dementia services for NHS West Kent and Kent Adult Social Services, said the stigma of dementia needs to change.

"People are scared of dementia and don't always want to face up to it, which means diagnosis often comes too late," she said.

"If people speak to their doctor and explain what is happening they can then get the support they need and avoid crisis in the future.

"Families and friends also need to realise that dementia is nothing to be scared of and they can learn how best to cope with it."

Experts at County Hall have teamed up with the NHS to offer a support network.

For those in the early stages of dementia, the Peer Support initiative is in place in West Malling, Maidstone, Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh for sufferers and their carers.

A dementia café is also being set up and expected to be rolled out at a later date in the county, offering an informal meeting place for people at all stages of the condition.

Ms Hanson said: "Dementia affects people at later stages in life, usually from 65 upwards.

"But with the population living longer it means more people will be affected.

"It's a very complex condition. It's not like other ailments where people are sick but they are still the same person.



LIFE GOES ON: Dementia sufferers are able to live relatively normal lives with a little help

"With dementia people change which is hard for those around them, but through support people will see it's not all doom and gloom."

One-in-three people over the age of 65 will develop dementia, with experts pushing for vital help to allow others to understand the condition.

Care services minister Phil Hope said people often fear the disease, causing them to avoid those who suffer from it.

"This makes them feel isolated and stigmatised," he said.

"We want to start to break down this stigma and show the simple things you can do to help people live well with dementia.

Diagnosed

"We want to show that with the right support, people can live well with the condition and continue to do the things they enjoy for a number of years following diagnosis."

Ruth Sutherland, acting chief of the Alzheimer's Society, said when people with dementia admit when they are diagnosed, others begin to act differently with them.

"This has a huge impact on their lives, but we know that with the right support people can continue to enjoy a good quality of life," she said.

"One in three people over 65 will develop dementia so it's vital we all understand how better to support those living with the condition."

For more information about the services go to www.westkentpct.nhs.uk.

A NEW website aims to help people "improve their mental wellbeing".

The site, www.liveitwell.org.uk, has a range of practical tips for boosting happiness.

They include the mental health equivalent of five a day, plus Dr Tim's 23 tips for becoming happier.

It has information about local activities, advice on becoming more active and tips on eating healthily.

The website also sets out the vision for future mental health services in Kent and Medway.

Lauretta Kavanagh, director of mental health commissioning for Kent and Medway, said: "Exercise, healthy eating and joining in with activities all help to keep us happy and well. This site brings together all of these things with local information to help support people's emotional wellbeing.

"It is a really outstanding website and I hope people will use it and contribute their own ideas, activities, stories and blogs to make it even better."

The site, which is hosted by Sevenoaks MIND, was put together with ideas from a range of people across Kent and Medway. It is funded by Kent County Council's commissioning and contracting team for mental health.

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CHRIS MURPHY has a seat in the stalls for the county's latest silver screen releases



Paved with good intentions

A KENT-made film taking a savage look at how putting young children into care can go tragically wrong has won two major awards.

Hell's Pavement is the harrowing story of little Aimee, starting when she is 11.

The plot follows five years of her life, and her downward spiral is shown so graphically that judges at the recent Beloit International Film Festival in the US gave it three awards; the Josh Burton Special Merit Award, the Ken Hendricks People's Award; and an Emerging Filmmakers Award, beating more than 140 other films from 22 countries.

It had already been warmly greeted at the Glasgow Film Festival and the World Fostering Conference in Dublin last year and has also been shown in Canterbury and will be on more UK screens this year.

The film is based entirely on the Kent production team's personal experiences of working with the public, private and voluntary care sectors. It was written and produced by entrepreneur Keith Gorman.

Mr Gorman, from Sittingbourne, said: "My mother was a foster parent and I ran a fostering company myself until I sold up and used the profit to make Hell's Pavement.

"I was at a conference recently talking about the film, and a social worker said I was damaging their industry. But then a young man stood up. He said he had been through the care process and pointed out that children die, but social workers don't.

"That sort of ended that debate."

The film stars Pauline McLynn, of Shameless, plus Connor Byrne from London's Burning. Aimee was played by 11-year-old Keeki Bennetts, now 19.

Aimee is removed from the care of her mother by well-meaning professionals.

Following her first encounter with the social care system through a range of foster placements, it ends in a haunting climax and explores how so many good intentions can end up causing irreparable damage.

Mr Gorman said: "It is a true story of tragedy, but it really shouldn't be."

See www.hellspavement.com for details.

Film is habit forming

A MAJOR movie shot in Kent is set to hit cinema screens across the country.

The Calling stars Ramsgate actress Brenda Blethyn, alongside Susannah York.

Writer and director Jan Dunn and producer Elaine Wickham of Ramsgate-based company Maeve Films are behind the venture.

It is the follow up to their first two award-winning features and was shot on a tight £500,000 budget in just two weeks entirely on location in Thanet.

The result is being shown in selected cinemas around the UK from April 23 after it opens the London Independent Film Festival with a screening to raise funds for Macmillan cancer nurses.

The comedy-drama from the makers of Gypo and Ruby Blue tells the story of a young woman who suddenly gives up her privileged modern life to join a closed order of Benedictine nuns.



HABIT: Rita Tushingham and Brenda Blethyn

Sticking to the ethos of producing films with some social commentary, these forward thinking nuns are modern, freethinking Sisters and hand out condoms, attend pro-choice lobbies, lend their names to political opposition to the Vatican's lethargic response to unpriestly behaviour and get themselves into all sorts of trouble.

Director Jan Dunn said: "I wanted to create the usual family disharmony and dysfunction within the walls of a convent – where you no more choose your family than you do in the real world, yet you still have to all get along, compromise and access some kind of love."

The film also stars Rita Tushingham and Amanda Donohoe, plus newcomers Emily Beecham and Chloe Sirene with Justin Salinger completing the cast as token priest, Father Kieren.

Screen legend Susannah York told KOS Media: "There was plenty of scope for characterisation, so in short I liked it, and wanted to become part of it.

"I had met Jan about a year before we started filming. I had seen some of her other work as a director and I liked her raw edge, the acting she got out of the stars, and the whole spirit of her films. And I saw all that in Jan when I met her. I thought making The Calling would be a great lark, and actually it was."

She added: "I think everything should be done to encourage people to get in to the cinema. At these times, it's terribly important to support the industry in any way you can. Independents, and people like Jan, need support. They get things done by sheer grit and determination."

Her character is not the nicest, and Ms



TWISTED SISTER: Susannah York stars in The Calling, which was filmed in Thanet

York told us: "She is a very fierce and somewhat over-the-top character. And I enjoyed that. I give our young star a very hard time in the film. My character is hardly cosy and cuddly. It was a journey for me."

The Calling was made by Maeve Films and the Kent County Council Film Office. The Kent Development Fund is now pouring £200,000 a year into film-making projects.



A different view

IMAGES of Deal without the visitors have been turned into a new film.

Peter Downsbrough made the movie in 2008 and it is being shown on the Big Screen in Market Square, Dover.

He said the film focuses on the town's shoreline and the 1950s modernist pier, the last to be built in Britain.

American artist Downsbrough, based in Brussels, made the five-minute film curiously called inter[POSE during visits to the town in 2008, working with staff at Sittingbourne Community College's Swanstree Studios to edit the film.

He has also made a 25 minute film called '] And Here' which was shot in north Kent at locations including the power station and container depot on the Isle of Grain.

Downsbrough said the pier appealed because of the contrast between the dark underside with its millipede-like legs astride a channel of their own making, and the social amenities, however spare, on the upper side.

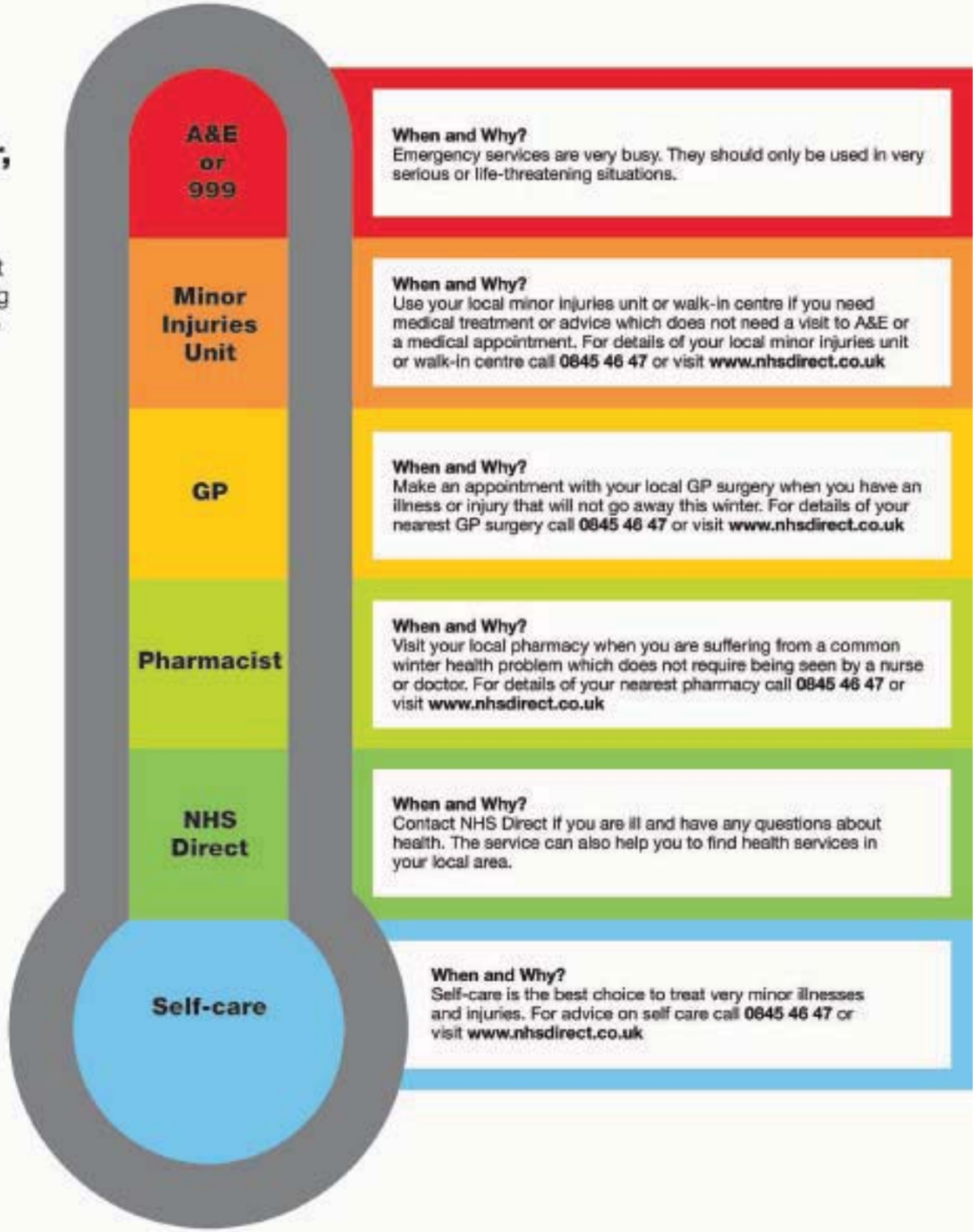
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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **97 & 98**



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Air ambulance hunt for heroes of fundraising

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk



TWENTY years ago Kent's emergency services changed forever with the introduction of a dedicated air ambulance crew.

Within just a week of its launch, eight people – two of whom would have almost certainly died – were saved by the service.

And since its introduction in 1990, this figure has soared, with hundreds now safe and well thanks to the committed crew.

But officials at the Kent Air Ambulance Trust have admitted the real heroes are those who spend their time raising vital cash to fund the £1.7 million needed annually to keep the service running.

And to show their appreciation, a special awards ceremony, sponsored by KOS Media, is being held to mark the 20th anniversary and thank the fundraisers.

John Tickner, chief executive of Kent Air Ambulance, said the awards – the first of their kind – acknowledge the huge support the charity has in the county.

He said. "This year marks a special anniversary in the life of the air ambulance, but this has only been made possible by the generosity of the people in Kent."

Since 1991, almost every penny of the £1.7m needed per year has come from public donations, with funds paying for doctors, fuel, training, equipment and medication. Officials are hoping to raise even more money so the service can also run through the night.

And in 1998, when a crash took the lives of pilot Graham Budden and paramedics Mark Darby and Tony Richardson, donations flooded in for a new helicopter bearing the initials of the casualties.

Lynn Hyder, county fundraiser at the air ambulance, said the charity is now inviting nominations from the public saying who they think should be commended for their fundraising efforts.

Ms Hyder said: "All these inspiring people have helped save lives through their generosity and we think these awards are a fitting tribute to show our thanks."

The black tie ceremony is being held at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on May 8.

To nominate someone, fill in the form below and send it to Freepost Kent Air Ambulance.

Kent Air Ambulance 20th Anniversary Awards

Kent Air Ambulance Trust
saving time - saving life

The Kent Air Ambulance are publicly acknowledging those who have fundraised on their behalf over the last twenty years. It is their support that has made it possible for us to save many lives in the county during this time.

Who can be nominated?

- Anyone that has raised funds for the Kent Air Ambulance and who you feel deserves recognition.
- Nominations can be made by anyone.
- Staff and crew, both past and present, are not eligible for these awards.

If you would like to nominate someone please tell us in no more than 200 words why you think this person deserves the award and how the funds were raised. Include this with the below form, filled in using block capitals and return by Friday 2nd April 2010 to:
FREEPOST KENT AIR AMBULANCE

The nomination catagories are: (please tick one)

☐ Sporting Fundraiser ☐ Business Fundraiser ☐ Most Unique Fundraising Event
☐ Youngest Fundraiser ☐ Group/Club Fundraiser ☐ Kent Air Ambulance Special Award

Details of person you wish to nominate: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other: _____
First Name: _____ Surname: _____
Their home address: _____
_____ Postcode: _____
Their telephone number: _____

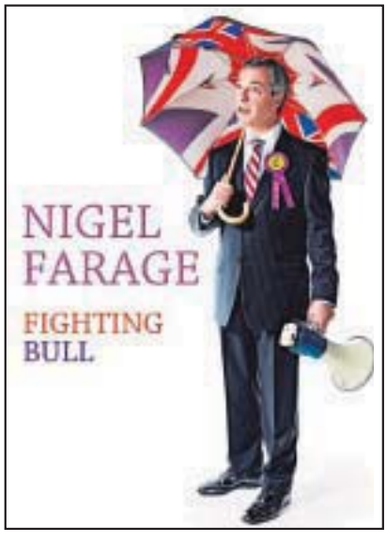
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By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Ukip's Farage keen to dispel myth of being real politician



FORMER Ukip leader Nigel Farage has a cunning plan to win voters over at the general election – by telling them he isn't a proper politician.

The 45-year-old Bromley resident plans to stand against House of Commons Speaker John Bercow on polling day, and says he wants to distance himself from those MPs who have "lost the confidence" of the electorate.

Speaking to KOS Media to promote his new autobiography Fighting Bull, the arch Eurosceptic said he wanted to tell the true story of the UK Independence Party before somebody else beat him to it with a different version of events.

He added: "I felt that the political story of helping to form the party, of being its first-ever candidate and of being involved in its first election was one that needed to be told.

"But at the same time I began to feel that people were beginning to think of me as a proper politician now, and I wanted to dispel that myth.

"I don't want anybody to think that I harboured this dream to be in politics from the age of 16 because that was never my plan. I wanted to do other things.

"I got into this myself because I had a loathing for what I then saw as the emerging career political class.

"All the main parties have now virtually merged into one and share the same views, and if people like me weren't standing up and saying these things then nobody else would."

Mr Farage has been a member of the European Parliament since 1999, but has failed to be elected to the Commons on five separate occasions since Ukip was founded 17 years ago.

However, that did not put him off resigning as party leader to stand against Mr Bercow in his Buckingham constituency, despite a Parliamentary convention that the Speaker should not be challenged for re-election.

Mr Farage said: "I think this Speaker is the figurehead of a political system in which most of us have lost total confidence, and by standing against him I'm giving voters the ideal opportunity to stick two fingers up to the entire political class and tell them that they no longer trust or believe them.

Charisma

"I don't go out of my way to be offensive to people, but I do speak my mind and I expect the same back at me.

"I was recently accused of being rude to the European President Herman Van Rompuy [by saying he has the charisma of a damp rag], but that's nothing compared to what I've had thrown at me over the last few years.

"You've got to be a big boy in politics and I think that by lying and cheating the way they have, a lot of these people deserve to be criticised."

Born on April 3, 1964, Mr Farage grew up in the village of Downe, in Bromley, where he still resides to this day.

He was educated at nearby Dulwich College in south-east London and later ran his own brokerage firm, which he gave up in 2002, to focus on his political career.

The former Tory supporter says he lost all hope in the party in October, 1990, when the Thatcher-run regime entered Britain into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism – designed to achieve monetary stability across the Continent in preparation for the single currency.

Mr Farage said: "I thought it was a disastrous idea, but all the main parties supported it, which made me lose confidence in the lot of them so I decided to get into it myself.

"The more I've seen and heard during my time in politics, the more I've worried that we are losing the democracy that people fought so hard to protect. And so far every fear I've had has come true.

"Here I am approaching my 46th birthday and not once have I been asked if I want to live in the United States of Europe."

Tony Blair

Mr Farage said his book – which also details his battle with testicular cancer and his run-ins with such political figures as Tony Blair, Nicolas Sarkozy and Robert Kilroy-Silk – will give voters a unique insight into how European politics works.

He added: "The British media never covers much of what actually goes on there, like how totally intolerant they are to anybody who dares to disagree with their point of view."

• ***Fighting Bull is available from Thursday, priced £17.99.***

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10.3% APR



Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr

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WIN! tickets to Medway Festival of Steam and Transport

WITH around 500 vehicles already booked for both days, there is little space left on the 80-acre site of the Historic Dockyard in Chatham, for this year's annual Medway Festival of Steam and Transport.

There'll be something for everyone over Sunday and Monday, April 4-5, with kit cars, pre and post-war cars and military vehicles, agricultural, commercial and emergency service vehicles joining the motorcycles, steam traction engines and the Dockyard's own steam locomotives.

Entertainment includes a Model Zone; Dray Shire Horse wagon rides; the Newfoundland Dog Team and Many Hoots Animal Sanctuary.

On Monday, Fireman Sam will be making personal appearances, alongside Naughty Norman, at various intervals throughout the day.

We have three family tickets to give away, and each will come with a river cruise on the Paddle Steamer Kingswear Castle, and a Dray Horse Shire wagon ride. Seven other winners will get family tickets to the event.

To enter, answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Medway Festival of Steam Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is March 26, 2010.

Question: On what day is Fireman Sam making an appearance?

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Tickets will be for one day only. Family tickets are for two adults and two children, or one adult and three children.

If you're not lucky enough to win then prices for the event are: adult £12.50; concession £10; child (aged 5-15) £8; family £33.50; additional family child £5. Discounts are available for two day tickets.

See www.thedockyard.co.uk for details.





AT RISK: Sara Ross with Duke, and inset, actress Jenny Seagrove

Time is galloping away

Horse refuge just weeks from eviction

ACTRESS Jenny Seagrove has become the latest celebrity to make a special plea to stop the slaughter of 50 sick and abused horses, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The Judge John Deed star made the emotional appeal at an awards ceremony at the House of Lords, where owner of The Horse Refuge Sara Ross was commended for her work with neglected animals.

Mrs Ross and her husband have until next month to raise £600,000 to buy their rented farm, or the horses they care for could be shot.

X Factor's Simon Cowell, TV scriptwriter Carla Lane and Heather McCartney, the eldest daughter of Beatle Paul and his late wife Linda, have already given their support.

But the pressure is on, with just weeks before the eviction deadline.

"We're still hoping for a miracle," said Mrs Ross. "I'm trying to stay optimistic, but if these horses are slaughtered it will be the end of the world for us. It's ironic that we've been given an award for our work and yet we may have to close."

Mrs Ross said people have been very generous. So far The Horse Refuge has raised £215,000, but £385,000 is still needed to save the horses and 30 other animals.

The Wetnose Animal Aid International Awards at the House of Lords saw British actress Seagrove presenting Mrs Ross with an award and pleading to the audience for help.

The Horse Refuge, at Dobells Farm in Wittersham, near Tenterden, is home to Duke, the tallest horse in Europe. But the future is uncertain for the famous 6ft 7in giant, due to problems with his leg.

Mrs Ross said: "It's not just him; many of these animals are too sick or traumatised to travel. A lot will lose their lives if we don't find this money, but we can't even think about that – it's too upsetting."

See www.thehorserefuge.org or call 01797 270555 to donate.

There are hundreds of teenagers in Kent who need help, if you can help just one then call us now!



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Great getaway deals to be had at the travel and leisure show

EXCLUSIVE deals for day trips, weekend breaks and holidays abroad will be on offer at KOS Media's third annual Travel and Leisure Show.

Last year's event was a huge success, with more than 4,000 visitors flocking to the Dover Cruise Terminal to find out more about the attractions available on their doorstep, as well as those on the other side of the Channel and beyond.

This year's show will be held at the same venue on Sunday, March 28, and promises to be bigger and better than ever.

KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said: "After two successful years the show has become the biggest of its kind in the region. With the variety of local tourist attractions, cruising holidays and many other leisure opportunities, it provides a great day out for all the family.

"In previous years many visitors have actually booked their holiday at the show itself or taken advantage of other great exclusive show offers."

This year's Travel and Leisure Show will take place just one week after the end of British Tourism Week, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of the industry to the national economy.

Presentation

Among the companies represented will be many of the major cruise lines and ferry operators, with some great cross-Channel offers and short breaks available to book on the day.

Coaching holidays will also be promoted, as will air travel through Kent International Airport at Manston.

Representatives from many of Kent's biggest tourist attractions – as well from the lesser-known 'little gems' – will be on hand to answer any questions visitors may have, and there will also be a presentation theatre with speakers covering a wide range of topics throughout the day.

As well as the large number of companies exhibiting at the event, there will also be a competition to win a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

There are 31 other fantastic prizes to be won, including an overnight stay with dinner at Canterbury's ABode Hotel, a return Channel crossing provided by Norfolkline, and a family membership to Kent Wildlife Trust.

Children's entertainment, a licensed bar and refreshments will also be available throughout the day, which runs from 9.30am-4.30pm.

Admission and parking to the show is free, but visitors can beat the queues by registering for fast-track entry.

Visit www.thetravelandleisureshow.co.uk for more information, or call Liz Hare on 01303 817172.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**



COMPLETE PACKAGE: Visitors to the travel and leisure show are able to book their holiday on the day



Text gets police message across

POLICE are using a new weapon in the fight against crime – text and picture messages.

Officers across the county can now use Bluetooth devices to send information to all enabled mobile phones within a certain area.

In this way they can send safety messages, crime prevention tips, information about police meetings, details of how local concerns are being addressed, or details of campaigns to prevent motorists from speeding or drink driving.

Kent Police has 14 Bluetooth devices which are being used to send text or picture messages to all Bluetooth enabled phones within a 70-metre radius.

Bluetooth users in the range will receive a text message stating that Kent Police is trying to contact them and they can then choose whether or not to accept the message.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "It is another way informing the public about what is being done about their concerns.

"It allows us to contact people direct and send tailored messages to specific communities – and even offenders themselves."



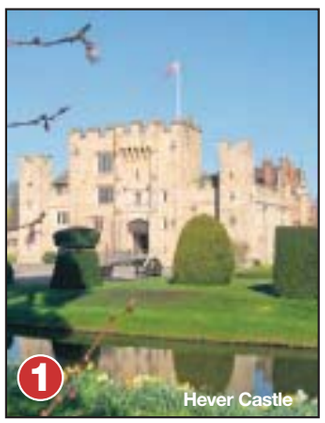
Kent's tourism industry is set for another bumper summer as holidaymakers again

County proves attractive choice for 'staycationers'

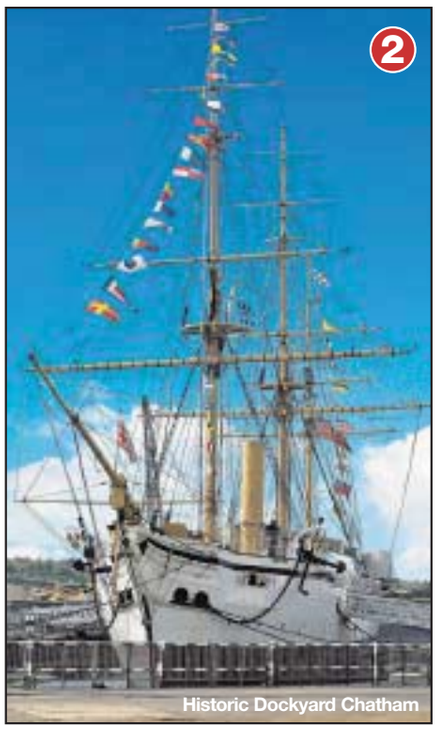
By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Picture: THANET TOURISM









WITH its unique blend of rural, urban and coastal landscapes, Kent is better placed than most areas to benefit from the current trend of 'staycations'.

Increasing numbers of holidaymakers are shunning foreign package deals in favour of the attractions available on their doorstep, and Kent's tourism industry is reaping the benefits as a result.

This week has been British Tourism Week, and Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh told KOS Media the county was preparing for another bumper summer.

She said: "Our research shows that last year visitor numbers were up by 15-20 per cent on average, and that's largely due to staycationers.

"Obviously, being so close to the Continent we benefited from the vary favourable euro exchange rate for the inland market, which put some people off going abroad and also attracted foreign holidaymakers in.

"There's certainly a sense that people are planning to stay at home again this year, and interest in Kent is higher than we have ever known it.

Micro-climate

"Demand for our current Big Day Out offer was so high last week that it crashed our website twice, and I think that really does indicate that people are becoming more aware of what there is to see and do in Kent."

According to Tourism South East, the UK tourism industry is worth £114 billion and accounts for 8.2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

More than 50,000 people are employed by the sector in Kent, which is worth £2.5bn to the local economy.

Supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council and the various district and borough councils, Visit Kent is responsible for targeting the UK and overseas leisure markets and promoting the county as an attractive destination for holidays and events.

Mrs Matthews-Marsh said: "We have a lot in Kent to be proud of; great coastal areas, a fantastic countryside, heritage buildings and historic environments.

"We're also very close to the Continent, which means we are very easy to get to.

"That all adds up to a recipe for a great destination, not to mention our little micro-climate which is also very attractive to tourists.

"There's more to look forward to on the cultural side of things too, such as the Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate and the new Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury."

Forefront

Last month Visit Kent was named Destination Marketing Organisation of the Year by members of the travel trade at the 2010 UKinbound convention, having generated more than £10 million for Kent's economy in 2009.

Not one to rest on its laurels, this week the group accompanied trade firms from Belgium, Hong Kong and Taiwan on familiarisation visits around the county to improve their product knowledge and encourage further tour packages into Kent.

But Mrs Matthews-Marsh said the attractions themselves also have to continue to improve to further help the industry.

She said: "Quality is always at the forefront and we are busy helping businesses with a whole series of promotions and marketing

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CASTLES AND CATHEDRALS

1 FROM Anne Boleyn's childhood home at Hever to the coastal fortress of Dover, Kent is home to more historic castles than any other region in the country.

The county also has two of the nation's most beautiful cathedrals in Rochester and Canterbury, the latter of which is regarded by many Christians as the home of the Church of England.

But Kent also has many other lesser-known stately attractions such as Winston Churchill's former home at Chartwell, near Westerham in Sevenoaks, and the various medieval houses and landmarks in the 14 Cinque Port towns which stretch from Hastings to Ramsgate.

MARITIME HERITAGE

2 WITH its close proximity to the rest of Europe, it's no surprise that for centuries Kent has been regarded as Britain's first line of defence from invasion.

For much of its history that threat came from the seas, which is why the county – and Chatham in particular – has such a rich shipbuilding tradition.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham contains more than 400 years of maritime history, while visitors to nearby Upnor Castle can find out how Queen Elizabeth I protected her warships at anchor.

Meanwhile, Dover Museum is home to the world's oldest known seagoing boat, which dates back to the Bronze Age.

WILDLIFE

3 TIGERS, elephants and wolves can all be found in Kent thanks to the efforts of several wild animal parks that help ensure their survival.

Howletts and Port Lympne zoos – both owned by the Aspinall Foundation – are known throughout the country for their large range of exotic and fearsome animals, and continue to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

But Kent is also home to Wildwood animal park near Canterbury, which is home to a myriad of British animals ranging from badgers and foxes to mice and wild horses.

The county is also a popular destination for birdwatchers and is home to several RSPB-run nature reserves.

MISCELLANEOUS

4 WHETHER it's light railways, village tours or vineyards you're looking for, Kent delivers in all respects.

The county is also home to Britain's oldest brewer Shepherd Neame – which holds guided tours of its base in Faversham – while the coastal towns of Thanet are always popular with seasiders.

Museums, art galleries and gardens can also be found dotted throughout the county.

campaigns. One we are launching in spring is called Kent Contemporary, which is all about blowing the dust off of the Garden of England and trying to get people to look at it in a different way through things like fine eating and quality cultural, and leisure offers.

"It's important the attractions continue to do what they are doing, but also add quality every year. More and more businesses are striving for that high benchmark of quality, and that's what will sustain our industry in the years to come."

Go to www.visitkent.co.uk to find out more information.

Women MS sufferers set for a 'Wheelie' good time on 170-mile charity fundraiser

A GROUP of multiple sclerosis patients will tackle a 170-mile trek on their mobility scooters to raise cash for the Kent MS Therapy Centre.

The Canterbury-based Red Wheelies are Britain's only mobility scooter display team and plan to trundle between the two cathedral cities of Winchester and Canterbury, following the route of the North Downs Way.

Last year the all-female group successfully travelled the length of Hadrian's Wall in Scotland, raising more than £12,000 for the MS Therapy Centre, which also offers nurse clinics, counselling and advice for patients and their carers. This year's challenge will take place between May 8-22.

Team leader Jackie Weeden – nicknamed Wheelie One – said: "Just because we all have MS and our legs don't work properly, it doesn't mean we can't do things or we don't want to do things.

Isolating

"One of the big things for us is having fun, and that's just what the girls do. We're forever laughing, and that's important because MS can be quite an isolating condition.

"Suffering from it presents us with a lot of barriers, but we're all about driving into those barriers and knocking them down."

The Red Wheelies formed several years ago when Mrs Weeden and other users of the MS Therapy Centre were told they would not be allowed to race their scooters at the London Marathon.

Owners of an athletics track in Dartford stepped in to help and after several race meetings the women decided to create a formation team that would perform at various fun days and charity events.

Visit www.redwheelies.co.uk for more information and to donate.

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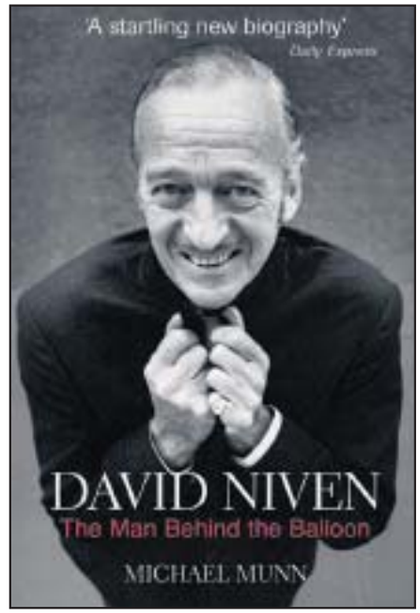
Chance encounter in Dover sent Niven on the road to Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD legend David Niven and the Kentish links that helped him on the road to superstardom are re-examined in a new book, ***writes Steve Knight***.





STAR-STRUCK: Author Michael Munn (far left) puts Niven's meeting with heiress Barbara Hutton (left, with Cary Grant) as the starting point of his film career



The late star of Around the World in 80 Days lived in the county for several months from December, 1931, during which time he met the woman who would later give him his first taste of America – the Woolworths heiress Barbara Hutton.

A member of the Highland Light Infantry, Niven was stationed at Dover's Citadel Barracks – now an immigration removal centre – but would frequently travel to London so he could be closer to the rich and famous people he idolised.

His time in Kent forms part of a new biography by Michael Munn, who first met the star in 1970.

Mr Munn said: "He and his mate used to travel up to the capital all the time because that's where all the action was, so I imagine he probably thought Dover was a bit quiet.

"At that time, when he was a young man in the Army, he was always looking for girls and booze. But even then he already had friends in the theatre, some of whom were very important people.

"In later life I suspect he would have enjoyed living in Kent because he had homes in quiet parts of Switzerland and France so he could get away from things."

It was while Niven was stationed in Dover that he met Barbara Hutton, who would go on to marry another hero of cinema's golden age in Cary Grant.

She invited him to spend Christmas with her at her home in New York, with the trip sparking Niven's love affair with the United States and convincing him that his time in the Army was coming to an end.

Persona

Mr Munn said: "He got to know all her rich and famous friends, and he really wanted to be one of them.

"I think a lot of it came from his background because he always felt unloved and unwanted as a child. That led to him almost creating his own persona, and one thing he always needed was an audience.

"He needed to be around people of a certain stature and knew that was how he would work his way up.

"He always wanted to be a Hollywood actor, but he never went to Rada (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) or anything like that. Once his mother died he began to feel like there was nothing left for him in England."

Niven went on to forge a hugely successful career for himself in Hollywood, starring in more than 90 films between 1932 and 1983 – the year he died aged 73 from the motor neuron disease ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

He even continued to make movies throughout the course of World War Two, when he returned to the Army and was at one point stationed in Chilham, near Canterbury.

Mr Munn said: "I always got on very well with David and he was always very generous. He once took me out and bought me a whole new outfit. We had some good times together and I look back on those days with great fondness."

• ***David Niven – The Man Behind the Balloon is available on Tuesday (March 23) through JR Books, priced £8.99.***

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Pursed snatched in graveyard incident

A WOMAN was pushed over and her purse stolen while visiting her mother's grave on Mother's Day.

The victim, 47, was at Canterbury Cemetery at around 3pm on March 14 when she was approached by a young man and woman who asked her for directions to town.

While explaining directions she was pushed over and her coat grabbed.

The pair ran off and the victim realised her purse containing cash had been stolen.

She was taken to the QEQM Hospital in Margate for a check-up.

Police are appealing for witnesses.

Bogged down boy pulled from mud

A STICKY situation was resolved when a nine-year-old boy who wandered into thick mud was rescued by firefighters.

The youngster was walking his dog with a friend along the cliffs at Warden Bay, on the Isle of Sheppey, last Saturday when he became stuck up to his knees in the soft, liquefied mud.

He was able to raise the alarm and two fire engines were sent to help him, along with the police, coastguard and paramedics.

Sheppey firefighter Jim Ashby said the boy was only 20 feet from hard ground and was gently pulled out using specialist rescue equipment.

He added: "He was checked over by paramedics before getting a bit of a telling-off from his dad.

"The area by the cliffs has become quite treacherous so we're warning people not to go out there or they could find themselves in trouble."

Watching over us

Beach lifeguards getting ready for a hectic summer

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH most people still recovering from what was one of the coldest winters in years, thoughts of sun, sea and sand are still a distant dream.

And before the majority can ditch their boots in favour of flip-flops there is still the unpredictable spring weather to get through.

But for Thanet's beach lifeguards, the summer starts here, with gruelling training sessions already under way for the season ahead, and in just weeks, their first dip in the grey, cold waters of the Channel.

Lifeguard Rupert Cox, 19, who started working on the beaches four years ago, said this training, and the subsequent assessments, are vital for the work they do in the summer.

"Last year, on our busiest days we would see between 3,000 and 5,000 people on our main beaches throughout the course of the day," he said.

"At the Water Gala in Broadstairs, Viking Bay saw around 10,000 people.



BAY WATCH: Lifeguards on the beach at Viking Bay in Broadstairs

"It's not the type of job you can ease your way into in the morning – you could have a rescue the moment you start at 9.30am or minutes before you finish at 6pm."

And rescues are not as rare as some might think, with pier jumpers, strong currents and ever more people descending on Thanet's award-winning beaches.

Training takes place at Ramsgate Swimming Pool months before the beach season starts, with open water sessions in the sea over the Easter period.

Rupert said: "It involves building up stamina, swimming long distances and first aid.

"In the sea we have to swim 300 metres and pick up a 'casualty', train on the Malibu boards and some of the head guards will be trained to use the boats.

"It's constant training at work though, you never stop learning."

Pressures

Despite popular opinion that being a beach lifeguard is the dream job, those who work on the beaches know well the pressures it comes with.

"You have to be on constant watch to see if anyone is in trouble in the water," said Rupert.

"And we have real problems with pier jumpers. We tell them not to do it, but we have no authority to actually stop them.

"When we go over to tell them to stop, that's one less pair of eyes on the beach, watching the water and making sure everyone is okay.

"Then when one of the pier jumpers is injured or gets into trouble in the water, we have to go in and rescue them."

Scrapes, bruises and, in worse cases, broken bones, mean the lifeguards are also constantly using their first aid skills.

And in rare cases, they have been sent out on their boats to look for bodies of suicide victims.

But the beach lifeguards admit it's a job they love.

Rupert said: "We're all friends and look out for each other which is really important in a job like this."

The lifeguards work on beaches from Ramsgate round the coast to Minnis Bay, with five guards allocated to the busiest beaches and two to three on others.



ALERT: Lifeguards on Ramsgate's Main Sands look out for troubled swimmers

Steve Davis, managing director at Thanet Leisure Force, which employs them, said this year the company will also be using work experience guards from Thanet Lifeguard Club.

"This will enhance numbers on the beaches and also show youngsters who are too young to be employed by us at the moment how it all works," he said.

"It means more lifeguards on the beaches, which is vital due to how busy we get."

Mr Davis, who manages the water safety contract, said the lifeguards also hold water safety lectures.

He said: "They are ambassadors for the area. Not only do they ensure the beaches are safe, but they help tourists who may be lost and are first port of call for anyone in trouble," he said.

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Tunnel staff in safety drill

EUROTUNNEL and emergency services from both the UK and France took part in a safety exercise last weekend.

Known as BINAT, it is a regular exercise, with this year's the 20th since the creation of Eurotunnel. It tests the response and co-ordination of the emergency services in the event of an incident in the Channel Tunnel.

It simulated a problem on board a truck shuttle and involved more than 80 members of the British and French emergency services, 20 actors and 20 judges and observers.

The main conclusion from the event was the need for better fire-suppression units.



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Women seeking men

ORIENTAL single mum, 25, easygoing, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

FUN-TO-BE-WITH, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 TXT

27-YEAR-OLD female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 TXT

BLUE-EYED brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880106 TXT

SOCIAL lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vGSOH, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 TXT

LOVING single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 TXT

31YR old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 TXT

SINGLE mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 306734 TXT

PRINCESS Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 TXT

HELLO I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 TXT

PETITE lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 TXT

LOVELY female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MUM of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

PRETTY, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 TXT

BLACK lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Wltm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 TXT

CUTE single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

EASTBOURNE based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 TXT

LONELY and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925 TXT

SHY but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 TXT

SHY female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wining and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 TXT

SINGLE, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and WLTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481 TXT

HARD working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 TXT

SINGLE mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 451129 TXT

HELLO, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 TXT

ACTIVE sporty female, 43, enjoys the usual things in life, looking for someone genuine and honest, initially for friendship but then who knows? Tunbridge Wells. Box 868335 TXT

ATTRACTIVE single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. WLTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182 TXT

HI there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612 TXT

PETITE, slim, honey-blonde lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 TXT

FIT and healthy woman, average build. I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Maidstone. Box 466418 TXT

BUBBLY female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 TXT

AFRICAN lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. WLTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617 TXT

FUN-LOVING gal, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Gillingham. Box 854480 TXT

YOUNG 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 TXT

HUMBLE lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 TXT

AFRICAN lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

EASYGOING woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 TXT

FEMALE, 48, divorced and happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380 TXT

DOG lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 TXT

PETITE blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

PRETTY, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 TXT

DIVORCED single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

CURVY woman, 49, 5ft10. I enjoy being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, crosswords and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608 TXT

YOUNG 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 TXT

WARM hearted lady, 51, look younger! I'm 5ft6, slim build, with blonde hair, divorced (grown up children). WLTM nice man, 40s/50s in the Aylesford area. Box 461834 TXT

OUTGOING lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 TXT

SLIM blonde, 51, 5ft3, very caring, active, loves diy and gardening, WLTM a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467112 TXT

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 TXT

FEMALE 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 TXT

SHORT 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 TXT

VERY honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, meals out and nights out, seeking sociable male with same interests...Ashford. Box 466150 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601 TXT

LOOKING for that special person I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel it! I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 857551 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 TXT

PROFESSIONAL, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 TXT

SMART petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 TXT

SPONTANEOUS, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 TXT

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STAR-STRUCK lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; WLTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 TXT

GENUINE, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 TXT

POSITIVE woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464000 TXT

HI my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

59YR old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship and then we'll see. Folkestone. Box 466963 TXT

CUDDLY lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 TXT

OUTGOING lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 TXT

BRIGHTON lass, 61, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60s music and going to the theatre.Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107 TXT

LOVING and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR...Margate. Box 460082 TXT

WIDOW, early 60s, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising and walks works, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872 TXT

LOVING lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks anc animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382 TXT

SLIM, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and tlc to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636 TXT

Women seeking women

HONEST female, 43, 5ft2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078 TXT

LOOKING for a female to have some fun with. I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, GSOH, friendly. Margate area. Box 859781 TXT

WOMAN seeking woman. I'm 63, fit/healthy, a veggie, have grown up kids and enjoy the sea, photography the arts, red wine and laughter. Whitstable. Box 466597 TXT



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Men seeking women

EASYGOING male, 28, GSOH, honest, caring, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, likes countryside, music, travel, seeking a woman for laughter, smiles, good time, 18-28. Hastings. Box 460821 TXT

RICHARD, 28, brown hair, hazel eyes, likes pubs and meeting new people, hard working, seeks nice, caring, loving woman like myself. Chatham. Box 465140 TXT

KENT guy, 30, enjoy sport, painting, music, looking for a female, similar age possibly older, for friendship and romance. Ashford. Box 851895 TXT

HARD-WORKING male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 TXT

SINGLE dad, 34, 5ft7, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464419 TXT

SLIM, sporty male, 35, 6ft, blue eyes, blonde hair, likes sports, football, pubs, clubs, romantic night in/out, seeking a caring lady for a ltr. Aylesford. Box 460136 TXT

HI there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 TXT

FIT, active man, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465467 TXT

ATHLETIC male, 35, 5ft9, professional, looking for a fun, lively and outgoing female to enjoy life with, GSOH is a must! Box 863555 TXT

36 year old single father, down to earth, works full time, enjoys family time, outdoor activities, cinema, meals out, seeks a similar lady. Gillingham Box 854242

FUN, romantic, energetic man, 37yrs old, 5ft6, slim build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy cooking, gardening, summer walks and home life. Maidstone area Box 467172 TXT

HI I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar girl to find love with. Box 449844 TXT

SEEKING genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449648 TXT

YOUNG looking male, 39, quiet guy looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 TXT

OUTGOING, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443756 TXT

OUTGOING guy, fun to be with, I'm 42, a non-drinker and would like to meet a similar lady in the Hythe area. Box 466462 TXT

NICK, 41, 6ft, slim, dark hair/blue eyes, likes cinema, country pubs and socialising with friends, looking for a kind, caring and considerate female, 35-45. Box 450339 TXT

GILLINGHAM male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158 TXT

TALL man medium build, 44, 5ft9, brown hair/eyes, with an outgoing nature, looking for a female similar to myself with long hair. Box 871274 TXT

WHITE professional male, 45, 5ft6, non-smoker, kind, honest, no hang-ups. WLTM some one special for LTR. Box 857608

SINCERE guy, 45, 6ft, slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a slim female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529 TXT

EASYGOING hard worker, 45, slim 6ft, looking for someone to settle down with who's honest, truthful and wanting to settle down. Gillingham. Box 466559 TXT

ROMANTIC male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 466663 TXT

CARING, romantic, loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair. I like walks, music, animals and pubs, seeks lady 35-50 East Sussex. Box 465613 TXT

SINGLE guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131 TXT

ATTRACTIVE male with GSOH, 45, 5ft9, brown hair green eyes, average build, looking for that really caring special person with lotsa love to give. Bexhill. Box 467037 TXT

WELL-BUILT male, 44, looking for a female for friendship and fun, let's make each other smile! Box 883622 TXT

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

FIT male, 47, 6ft, slim, hard working, GSOH, genuine and honest, WLTM a lady, 35-45ish, must be friendly anc outgoing. Ashford. Box 466942 TXT

CARING, thoughtful, considerate person, 47, 5ft10, average build, clean shaven, short hair, loyal and honest, hoping to find someone for lasting relationship. Sheerness. Box 466956 TXT

SINGLE dad, 47, enjoy most things in life, likes music, dvds and football, looking for a fun-loving female for a happy romance. Brighton. Box 466460 TXT

SINGLE guy, 47, 5ft8, been hurt in the past, works full time, looking for a Sussex-based lady to share life with. Kids not problem. Box 466082 TXT

GENUINE, caring, 47yr old man, 5ft9, average build, clean-shaven, short, mousy hair. Looking for possible LTR with fun woman who like a good laugh. Sheerness. Box 466590 TXT

47YR old Brighton based man, own home/business, seeks genuine loyal local lady aged 45-50 years to share it all with. Box 463623

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY dad, 46, sporty, keeps in good shape, own place, looking for an honest person to get to know well, possibly for relationship. Box 452446 TXT

GOOD looking male, 49, 5ft11. I have a son of 13 who is great. I just want to find beautiful loving lady to share life with. Box 852357

SINCERE genuine man, 47, 5ft9, cropped hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, divorced, looking to meet a nice woman to get to know/take out. Eastbourne. Box 449554 TXT

YOUNG 49 year old male looking for a serious ltr. Enjoy good food/wine hot lazy holidays, need nice lady to enjoy them with me. Box 868561 TXT

GOOD looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40 relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

CANTERBURY male, 48, white, 6ft3, medium-large build, likes cycling and walking to keep fit and boats! WLTM slim black lady for possible LTR. Box 465219 TXT

49 year old, young looking man, seeking lady to share the good things in life. Enjoys socialising, nights in and out. Own business and self sufficient! Box 852303

HONEST, caring man, 50, 5'11", likes cinema, countryside, beach walks, meals out/in, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, lady 45-55. Medway area. Box 852889 TXT

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SHY 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647 TXT

YOUNG 39yr old male, good looking, 5ft9, medium build, dark hair/blue eyes. I enjoy boating, country pubs, walks etc. WLTM like minded lady. Sittingbourne area.. Box 467062

LOOKING for a down to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862206 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6ft, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking. WLTM female, prefer single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, tt, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825 TXT

ROMANTIC male, 40, 6ft, slim build, GSOH, 32 waist, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pool, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 35-45, GSOH, romantic. Sheerness Box 463935 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333 TXT

OUTGOING male, 42, 5ft10, above average build, looking for fun and possibly more in time if you're the right lady. Maidstone. Box 859627 TXT

HI I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377 TXT

VERY young looking male, 52, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5'7, looking for a nice young lady over 30 for romance and good times together. Box 860086

YOUNG 54yr old man, separated, 5ft10, slim/medium, pretty fit. I like music, walks, countryside, pubs, football, horses. Ashford. Box 467015 TXT

FUN male 5'8" brown eyes, whitish hair, looking for easygoing lady, likes going out, cinema or a meal and bit of fun. Tunbridge Wells. Box 460283

ACTIVE and easy-going male, mid 50s, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771 TXT

53YR old male, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, own company enjoys coast, countryside, seeks female, 40-60, for true love. Box 782206 TXT

ADVENTUROUS male, 57, 5ft7, likes walks, animals, eating in and out, camping and holidays. WLTM likewise lady, similar interests. Box 449963 TXT

DIVORCED, active male, 5ft7in brown eyes, likes the beach, walking, pubs, restaurants, holidays, seeking a similar lady that likes travel for friendship first. Ramsgate. Box 466844 TXT

WIDOWER, 60, 5ft10, medium build, N/S, drinks occasionally, looking for a lady, 5ft4-5ft5, for a LTR, just want someone to enjoy life with. Rochester. Box 462498 TXT

RETIRED 62yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, solvent, hobbies include music, films, reading, American comics and football, WLTM sweet lady for friendship/love. Herne Bay. Box 460106 TXT

Men seeking men

40YR old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 TXT

CARING gentle guy, 45, slim, 5ft9 short hair, looking for guys in Medway area for fun and then whatever else follows. Rochester. Box 459815 TXT

LARGE passive male, 52- looks younger, seeking top man for fun, friendship/love. Broadstairs. Box 851908

ACTIVE 52yr old man in fairly good shape, looking to meet a nice man for relaxation, conversation and good times. Box 452249 TXT



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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Correctness is a belief too far

IS THERE anybody who would be offended at being asked what their Christian name is?

While Kent Police must be applauded for taking its relationship with the communities it serves seriously, it is a step too far for the force to programme its officers like robots, giving them only a select few words to use.

Patrolling the streets dealing with murderers and drug-dealers is tough enough without having to worry that you may have upset a woman by calling her "my dear".

One of the reasons such moves are frequently ridiculed in the press is because we, like most people, want to see an end to such outrageous political correctness.

If it's not about banning nursery rhymes because they feature black sheep or renaming manhole covers in the name of sexual equality, it's about getting children to write essays on gay history, and it needs to stop.

Whether it's Christians, Muslims, Sikhs or any other religious group, all they want to see the police do is fight crime effectively.

And if Kent's officers continue to do that, they will find that they don't have to rely on political correctness to raise public confidence.

Voicing opinion

ACCORDING to one of the aforementioned guidelines, officers should not assume that just because voices are raised a person is becoming aggressive.

Perhaps that is the real reason why police who were on patrol with MP Damian Green recently decided to let a mouthy yob go free, rather than the lack of manpower he alleges.

OPINION: How does UK look after its dogs?



NIKKY KIMBLE of the Dogs Trust Canterbury argues microchipping is a vital part of pet ownership

THE case of Munchie the Lurcher shows the benefits of a microchip.

He was stolen, then identified and returned to Dogs Trust Canterbury – a thief can easily remove a collar or tag, but not a microchip.

If Munchie had not been chipped, it is almost certain he would never have been found.

Dogs Trust has been lobbying the Government about the benefits of compulsory microchipping for the past 12 months.

The charity believes permanent identification must form a central part of any new dog legislation, so it is deeply gratifying that this has been included as part of the government's recent proposed consultation.

Returned home

Permanent identification of dogs is primarily a welfare issue, enhancing the return of stray dogs to their owner (half of dogs identified are already returned using their microchip).

But it also provides useful enhancement of identification of dogs and their owners for other existing legislation.

Almost without exception, the Animal Welfare Charities are wholeheartedly in support of Permanent ID (microchipping is the preferred method but there is an alternative of tattooing). Most of the charities have been chipping for years. Dogs Trust alone has chipped at least 500,000 over the last ten years.

It is estimated that there are eight million dogs in the UK and that already 2.5 million of these are microchipped.

Access to the databases is strictly controlled and limited to authorised persons from local authorities, the police and animal welfare organisations through a coordinated single point of contact. They run to a standard agreed with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, who also monitor adverse reactions. Four hundred have been reported out of five million chips implanted in pets.

The charge to implant a microchip commercially is generally £15 to £30. Most welfare organisations provide a reduced cost service for those on benefits that may be free of charge in some circumstances. Dogs Trust charges between £5 and £10, and good re-homing charities microchip all the dogs they re-home.

Microchips were first embedded in legislation by the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. The EU Rabies Directive (Pet Passport) now also requires dogs to be microchipped.

Dogs Trust carried out research in 2009 to evaluate public opinion towards microchipping. Of those questioned, 88 per cent were in favour, with only five per cent against.

The benefits are huge:

- Genuine strays can be swiftly returned to their owners
- Reinforces owners' responsibility and may deter irresponsible owners from purchasing a dog
- Enables puppy-farmed dogs to be traced to their breeders.
- Enables enforcers to correctly identify an owner for any offence
- Could provide significant savings to Local Authorities in obviating the need to kennel dogs.
- Ownership disputes can be more readily dealt with
- Less likely that dogs will be stolen

Under the Control of Dogs Order 1992 it is a requirement for a dog to wear a collar and tag with the name and address of the owner There is no requirement for a telephone number. However, collars can fall off or be removed, rendering the dog's owner untraceable.

Dogs Trust proposes that the Control of Dogs Order is replaced with a new statutory instrument to allow that in addition to the collar and tag, dogs must be permanently identified by means of a microchip (or tattoo) and details of the owner maintained on a database and kept up to date. The database standard should be similar to that defined in the draft Racing Greyhound Regulations. All dogs must be identified in this way at first change of hands.

Euthanasia

Local Authorities are now solely responsible for stray dogs and will require a scanner. Most will already have these. If not the cost of a basic scanner is around £100.

Apart from the scanner, there would be no additional costs to central or local government, indeed there could be considerable savings as the number of unidentified dogs will be reduced. In 2009, 9,300 were euthanased by local authorities as unclaimed at a cost of around £120 each (seven days kennelling plus euthanasia and carcase disposal). Every one per cent reduction in unclaimed strays would save £11,160.

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Dangers on the web

Listening to Radio 4 discussing the tagging of Peter Chapman, a convicted murderer, it's quite obvious to me that parents need to win back control of the household.

If I thought my child was at risk I'd pull the plug or put a brick through the system; or at least insist on knowing who my child was communicating with.

The Chapman case portrays home intrusion as bad as if the doors and windows had been broken in. The internet can be a very dangerous toy at best, and don't forget the perverts who are about to make their first offence.

They certainly won't be tagged.

G Brenchley, Whitstable

Deep in Brown stuff

Just how anyone can even think of voting for Gordon Brown is beyond me. Isn't he the person who sold us down the river to Europe, and isn't he the one who has been sending youngsters to war with substandard kit, to be killed or maimed?

The list of awful things the Prime Minister has done in his efforts to destroy our country is far to long. Another five years of Mr Brown should just about bury all of us.

RE Tucker

Consultation's a sham

I thought a consultation period took place before something happened, then a judgment was made to decide what course of action, if any, should be taken, but the Highway Agency (HA) do not seem to follow this practice.

Speed camera graduation marks appeared on the M20 in the middle of 2008, yet the 'consultation period' was in the middle of 2009, so it was a done deal and any 'consultation' was just a mandatory obligation the HA have to fulfil.

It was also stated by the HA that out of 73 responses, only 32 were against the scheme. As Kent co-ordinator for the Association of British Drivers I represent several thousand members nationwide, but does our association's objection letter only count as one response? Is it realistic to expect the millions of drivers that use this motorway from all over Great Britain and Europe to write an objection letter?

As this speed camera cancer spreads over our motorway system, the whole purpose of motorways, giving us shorter journey times, becomes redundant. Any regular motorway user knows the matrix warning system is a farce and never gives real-time information.

Operated professionally and with common sense, the HA might have a case. But for now and the distant future, it is just another facet of government policy, to make driving as unpleasant as possible, while being lobbied by the safety industry to hand out lucrative contracts to supply enforcement equipment.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Isle has suffered enough

With reference to your front page story last week ('Huge impact of dumping cons') – it's about time some other area got all the dregs.

The Isle of Thanet has been receiving down and outs from all over the country for many years, purely because it was cheaper to house them at the coast where accommodation was available in guest houses at a low rate.

Why didn't they realise what they were doing to this area? Did they really think dumping ex-convicts in a small seaside resort wouldn't make a big difference?

Now a high percentage of the isle's population is not even attempting to get a job, the crime rate never seems to fall and respect has gone out of the window.

What we would like is for other places in the country to take their fair share. We have had enough.

C Russell, Ramsgate

Still wailing and railing

Firstly may I just correct a couple of things in recent letters. Last week I was replying, in part, to DG Hedges not as stated, and previously the new fuel cells I mentioned are called Bloombox, not Boombox.

In final reply to Phil Grainger last week though, every day being spring is neither possible nor desirable of course, but all he seems to do is rail against the world's problems, then wail against those trying to do something about them, and so fails to say or do anything positive to alleviate them.

I and others though will remain implacable in our efforts, despite the obvious difficulties in changing the current the political, business and even religious status quo, to do so.

By doing this we are seeing, and have already seen, changes being made, despite setbacks like Copenhagen, as squabbling politicians and company bosses begin to realise it's in their and indeed all our interests to do so. It needs to happen much faster though, and we will further press for this.

Indeed, we do all this to help future generations, as they are the ones who will have to live with the consequences of our cosy convenience lifestyles, and so I quote young Felix Finkbeiner, a member of the German counterpart to the UK Youth Council on Climate Change (www.ukycc.org) who said recently: "Everyone loves to talk about the climate crisis but talking alone isn't going to stop the glaciers from melting or the rainforests from disappearing. Each time adults just talk and don't act, it's up to us, the children, to take matters in our own hands; quite literally."

Quite so. Thus I leave Mr Grainger sinking into his defeatist cynicism as I, and the young people above for instance, continue to campaign for a better world for all with, or it seems more likely, without him.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Weighing up the costs

I was concerned by your page 5 story headlined 'Slimming for money plan could tackle rising obesity' (KoS, March 7).

Why should people be paid to lose weight? Surely they would be saving money on food if they were dieting anyway? Perhaps they need to be told how much money they could save by dieting.

The money for the subsidies would come from the taxpayer, I presume, and the Government is already borrowing itself silly and making big cuts in public expenditure.

And what about all the people who eat sensibly and don't get overweight in the first place?

They won't get any money for being sensible. Smokers don't get paid to give up smoking.

Marc Hurstfield, Northfleet

Letters continued on page 30

YOUR LETTERS

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Ben and Cordelia are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Imogen Rose, born on 27th February 2010, weighing 6lbs 9ozs.

IOANNOU
Anthea and Christos of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Sophia Ioannou, born on 25th February 2010 at QEQM Hospital. Sister to Stelios. Congratulations to Grandma, Grandad and Dino.

SMITH
Chris and Donna Smith celebrate the birth of their daughter Haylie-Rose Joan Smith on the 3rd of March 2010.

WAITE
Tony and Sam are thrilled to announce the birth of their baby son Tom Stuart Waite born on 15th February 2010. He weighed 7lb 3oz and 54cm long. Proud grandparents are Lynda, Dave, Diane, Bob, Roger and Catherine.

WARD
Stephen and Sarah Ward of Tunbridge Wells are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Charlotte Alice, born at home on 7th March 2010 weighing 7lb 8oz.

DEATHS

FOULCER
Margaret Elizabeth Foulcer of Herne Bay passed away peacefully on 8th March 2010. A much loved mum, nan and friend who will be sadly missed.

GREENAWAY
Peacefully at Royal Preston Hospital on 9th March 2010, Ursula aged 70 years, also peacefully at Royal Preston Hospital on 14th March 2010, Jim (James) aged 75 years. Dearly loved mum and dad of Adam, Rebecca and Daniel, loving mother in law and father-in-law of Liz, much loved nana and grandpops of Louise, Ben, Thomas and James, dearly loved sister and brother-in-law. Enquiries: Kenyons 01257 276104.

HARDING
Maria Harding (known as Lina), who nursed at Joyce Green Hospital for many years, died peacefully in her sleep on Friday 5th March. She will be sadly missed. Enquiries to Coop Funeral Service 01322 220006.

HEMMING
Alice Audrey Hemming affectionatley known as Bree, died on 3rd March 2010. Loving Sister-in-law of Valerie and Aunty to Deborah and Timothy. Will be sadly missed by family and friends.

HOLLAND
Ian Holland from Dartford passed away peacefully with his loved ones by his side on the 8th March 2010 aged 73.

LOTT
Vera May Rose Lott of Maidstone died peacefully on 12th March 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium, enquiries to Pickard and Beale Maidstone.

MOON
Violet Moon died peacefully at home on Friday 5th March 2010 aged 91. Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted on Friday 26th March at 2.30pm. Family Flowers only. Donations to "The Childrens Society" c/o Birds Funeral Directors, 16 Fisher Street, Maidstone, ME14 2SW.

PORTER
Brian David Porter passed away peacefully at Maidstone Hospital on 2nd March 2010. Loving husband of Avril and father of Lloyd. Much missed.

POWER
Adrian John Power of Maidstone passed away suddenly on 3rd March 2010. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium at 2.40pm on 25th March 2010.

SWEETMAN
Jean Sweetman formerly of South Wales and Coventry, died peacefully on the 7th March 2010. Will be sadly missed by her loving and close family, Andrew, Bonnie, Bradley, Harriet, Bernice and Peter.

WILTSHIRE
Muriel Wiltshire of Folkestone passed away peacefully on the 9th March 2010. Sadly missed by all the family.

Letters continued from page 29

Brownfield is the key

Allocating land for housing as part of the local development framework (LDF) is a hot topic, and rightly so.

If we want our grown-up children not to have to move away to live and work, then we need more housing. If we want distressed families out of unsuitable bed and breakfasts, then we need more housing. If we want fewer homeless on the streets, then we need housing. If we want everyone to have access to a secure, decent and affordable home where they want to live, then we need more housing. I want these things.

The Government has set targets for new homes reflecting this need and East Kent needs to do its bit. But the Government does not dictate where the building takes place: that is a local decision.

Over three quarters of all new homes in the UK are now built on previously developed brownfield land. Using the proposed greenfield site in South Canterbury for a 2,000 house build is not the way forward. The area does not have the superstructure (public transport, health centres, shops) to take this number and housing on this scale will create even greater traffic congestion.

So what would I suggest?

1. Reduce the number for South Canterbury.
2. Revisit the previously rejected option of approximately 500 homes in the Hersden area. This was last addressed some years back when brownfield sites were more available. Maybe with the new high-speed line taking the London-bound, a stop for Hersden would be warranted, adding to the area's economy. And the bus route need only be built up, not started from scratch.
3. Increase the campus accommodation for our student population, so freeing up housing for families to rent.
4. Spread the load and also the economic benefits that come with new housing and place some on brownfield in coastal towns

Jean Samuel,
Labour's Parliamentary Candidate for
Canterbury & Whitstable, Whitstable

Games are political tool

With reference to your feature Education for Kent entitled 'County Hall uses London 2012 to highlight value of sport in schools' (March 7). It was gratifying to read that Kent County Council are doing all they can to push sports in schools in the run-up to the Games.

However they must be swimming against the tide, because the national press is full of stories of cutbacks in school sports lessons and specialist teachers, as well as playing fields being sold off.

These activities hardly square with the idea of the Games as a vehicle to inspire the next generation of sportsmen/women.

The reality is that the Olympics are all about power politics and nothing to do with sport at all. In 2008, China put on the most spectacular Games ever, we are told.

The Chinese wanted to have their 'place in the sun' and do things better than anyone else: it was their way of saying 'as an ex-colonial power we won't be pushed around anymore and we want a seat at the top table'.

Likewise with Britain and the Games: we may be a small declining power but we still matter in the world and will prove this by delivering a successful Games.

Britain, it seems, cannot move on from its imperialist past. Ironically, China is well ahead of the West in one important respect: it values the benefits of formal sports education at grass roots and routinely employs PE teachers in schools at all levels, even at nursery level.

This is the kind of thing we in the West should be doing if we are to compete with the likes of China.

John Knight,
Orpington

Speeding for pleasure

I believe Katherine Barrett, the communications officer for the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership is being sincere when she asserts that her organisation's "sole aim is to reduce casualties" (Safety first – not profit, KOS, February 27).

There is no hidden agenda behind the proliferation of safety cameras. For critics to maintain that cameras exist only to make money is patently ridiculous.

Only motorists exceeding the speed limit are ever fined, so if everyone drove within the law no-one would be issued with a ticket and revenue raised would be nil.

Detractors will make up all manner of tales to discredit safety cameras because they resent any measures put in place which prohibit them from illegally driving as fast as they like, an activity from which they attain extreme pleasure.

Fast cars are missiles on wheels with fallible humans at their control. The faster one is travelling the more difficult it becomes to control the vehicle if an unexpected impediment appears on the road ahead, as the driver's reflexes are unlikely to be quick enough to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

Ownership of a machine with the potential to be a lethal weapon should be considered a privilege, not a divine right.

High-velocity driving, which puts innocent lives in immense peril, deserves to be met with rigorous penalties.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

Support RoadPeace

Hardly any editions of local and regional newspapers are ever produced without them reporting, at the very least, one road traffic casualty.

Road traffic is the leading cause of death to children aged between five and 14, who are among the seven deaths of all age groups occurring every day.

And of course, road casualties feature to often in radio and TV news reports.

RoadPeace is seeking donations from companies and private individuals. We all have a one-in-75 chance of losing someone close to us in a road collision. If you experience that tragedy RoadPeace will support you emotionally and practically.

RoadPeace receives no government funding; in fact, the bulk of our income comes from families who've been bereaved by road trauma themselves.

There has been a steady and welcome decline in the number of casualties on our roads, but the figures are still too high. RoadPeace strives for greater justice for victims, and greater safety on our roads.

Please remember, if you are a UK taxpayer use gift aid. This turns every £10 you give into nearly £12 for RoadPeace.

If you prefer to pay by cheque please mark it for RoadPeace and send it to: RoadPeace, Shakespeare Business Centre, 245a Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW9 8RR, or telephone 020 7733 1603 for other payment options. See www.roadpeace.org to find out more.

Ted Prangnell on behalf of RoadPeace

Save a generation

It is no secret that young people have borne the brunt of this recession. More than one in seven (14 per cent) of young people living in the South East of England are now on the dole – that's 89,600 16-24-year-olds.

But it is all too easy to dismiss these young people as a 'lost generation'. Each one of them has skills and talents that could make a real difference to this country.

The alarming new report from The Prince's Trust and Citi Foundation reveals that the South East could lose thousands of vital workers – nurses, teachers, doctors – if we fail to help young people find jobs.

Young people are not only struggling to fulfil their ambitions, nearly 15,000 living in our region are also missing out on necessities such as food and heating. More than 30,000 fear they will never have enough money to provide for themselves or their children

We can't afford to stifle these young talents now, particularly as we emerge from the longest recession on record. Those with fewest qualifications need our support the most as they struggle to compete with unemployed graduates flooding the jobs market.

Only by investing in these young people now can we ensure this undiscovered generation isn't lost forever.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness, Regional Director for
The Prince's Trust in the South East

Make your own decision

As part of Dying Matters week, I am urging people to consider what treatment they would or would not like to receive at the end of life, and secondly to make their choices legally binding in an Advance Decision, sometimes known as a living will.

Making an Advance Decision will not only make it very clear to your medical team what you do and do not want to happen to you at the end of your life, but it will also give comfort to your loved ones to know that you are being treated in the way you want.

This process is straightforward and does not require any involvement from legal professionals. With an Advance Decision you can have the peace of mind of knowing that your medical treatment wishes will be respected, even if you are unable to communicate. You can get a free Advance Decision pack from the charity Compassion in Dying: www.compassionindying.org.uk.

Sarah Wootton, CEO Compassion in Dying

Increase your diversity

The Government has recently called for some of Britain's largest companies to recruit more women on to their boards for greater diversity.

As Director of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (UKRC), I feel there is a significant need to highlight the importance of this call to action across the Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) sectors where women make up just nine per cent of total directorships of FTSE 100 companies. This is significantly less than the 12.5 per cent of females among non-SET directors.

There is a powerful business case for encouraging gender diversity at the highest levels of UK business. Research highlights that where organisations have an influential female presence on the executive committee, and more than two women on the board, they outperform their competitors in terms of return on equity, profit and stock price growth.

With the current economic challenges, there is the need and opportunity for businesses to consider the kind of changes that can impact on competitive advantage – especially in SET sectors, which are fuelled by innovation.

The UKRC is committed to significantly improving the participation and position of SET across industry and academia where there are significant skills shortages. These shortages have an undoubted impact on the future of productivity in the UK.

I agree with Lord Davies' comments and the UKRC is in support of a "new principle" of boardroom diversity in the UK Corporate Governance Code for listed companies.

Annette Williams, Director,
UK Resource Centre for Women in Science,
Engineering and Technology

Lobby your candidates

Thank you to all those readers who have downloaded our Election Manifesto for ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis).

We now have printed copies available free for anyone who is willing to send them to their MP and other candidates.

Please call us on 0845 123 2380 for a copy. Children, young people and adults who are living with this chronic fluctuating condition need your help.

Anyone who saw recent press coverage of Lynn Gilderdale's tragic suicide, following her 18-year battle with this illness, knows how devastating ME can be.

Sir Peter Spencer
CEO, Action for ME
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Helping teens make career Connexions

THE number of young people not in education, employment or training is continuing to drop, according to new Government figures, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The recent findings showed Kent was ranked as one of the top performing counties in the South East for supporting 16 to 18-year-olds.

Figures revealed that between November, 2009, and January, 2010, there were only 4.9 per cent not in education, employment or training (Neets) in the county, compared to the average for the South East of 6.4 per cent.

Officials from the department for children, families and education at County Hall said the results were down to the hard work by Connexions Kent.

The organisation was commissioned by Kent County Council to advise young people on issues such as careers, training and volunteering, and has so far helped tens of thousands across the county.

Through its support programmes, the company exceeded the 5.3 per cent local target set by KCC, resulting in an extra 188, 16 to 18-year-olds going into education, work or training in the last three months. Gordon Bernard, chief executive for Connexions Kent, said that despite the recession, the organisation had continued to meet targets.

"These latest figures are a huge achievement," he said. "We were greatly helped by our local partners combined with the skills and innovative approaches of our staff with their passion for supporting young people."

A range of programmes is offered by the organisation aimed at motivating young Neets by boosting confidence, while helping to equip them with the skills they need to start their careers.

In the past four years, about 800 people were helped by Connexions' Back on Track 10-day course, which combines job-searching techniques and team-building activities.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, KCC cabinet member for children, families and education, said: "The team at Connexions Kent has achieved excellent results in a challenging economic climate.

"The real winners, however, are the young people they have helped to secure further education, employment or training. I hope the county continues to buck the trend."

To contact Connexions visit www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk.

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For more information please visit our website www.movensmooth.com or call for details 01843 590591

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 89

KENT ON SUNDAY www.propertyforkent.co.uk

Review 21.03.10

COVER STORY VI-VII
LISTINGS VI
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IN MY VIEW



By Nick Ames

First rays of a new remastering

VALLEYS OF NEPTUNE BY JIMI HENDRIX

THE world has not been short of 'new' Jimi Hendrix albums released since the innovative guitar slinger died in 1970 and, to tell the truth, many of them have been pointless.

And on the surface, Valleys of Neptune looks none too promising.

Hear My Train A Comin, Red House and Bleeding Heart have all been released before.

But it shouldn't be discarded and left only to the completists.

Firstly, the sound quality is top notch – it really is like being in the room with the man himself and his band.

Secondly, there are some sonic gems for us to marvel at.

And thirdly, for newcomers to Hendrix and his legacy, it rescues him from being a face on a T-shirt and a deity reverently referred to in any number of magazines celebrating some sort of rock golden age.

With the assistance of his surviving relatives, Sony has struck a deal with Experience Hendrix, which handles the musician's estate, and his catalogue is currently being given the remastering treatment.

So, Are You Experienced; Axis: Bold As Love; Electric Ladyland; the live Band of Gypsys; and the posthumous First Rays of a New Rising Sun, are now available as enhanced discs with memorabilia and interviews.

Valleys of Neptune collects studio sessions, mostly from 1969, and features, in the main, the original band – the Experience with bassist Noel Redding and drummer Mitch Mitchell.

Most notable is the excellent title track – long a sort of 'Jimi Grail' for fans.

There is also a seven minute-plus treatment of his original number Hear My Train A Comin, and an epic eight-minute Red House.

A six-minute version of Elmore James' Bleeding Heart and a powerful version of Cream's Sunshine of Your Love are also highlights. Pop-rock number Mr Bad Luck, instrumental Crying Blue Rain, and Ships Passing Through the Night evoke a time which seems sadly long passed. However, the version of Fire doesn't really improve on the original.

But for all that minor fault-finding, it's excellent to hear new versions of classic and some different material.

For too long the whole Hendrix market dealt in sub-standard live recordings and demos.

The tracks are taken from two sets of sessions in the early months of 1969, following the recording of Electric Ladyland, that took place in the Record Plant in Lower Manhattan and Olympic in London.

They're really the last days of the Experience before subsequent Hendrix forays into funk and more free-form work.

So for many fans they are the swansong of a classic line up.

DVD

ZOMBIELAND (15)

AMERICA has been ravaged by a contagion which has metamorphosed all but the lucky few into flesh-chomping predators.

Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg), the deadpan narrator, has managed to survive thanks to his fear of anything that goes bump in the night. "It would be nice to see a familiar face... or any face that doesn't have blood dripping from its lips and flesh between its teeth," he muses as he makes his way back home to see his family.

En route, Columbus encounters gun-toting hard man, Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson), and Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Abigail Breslin).

Zombieland is a bloody hilarious jaunt, which strikes an irreverent tone echoing Shaun of the Dead.

The rules for survival are explained in the film's tongue-in-cheek opening section: maintain cardio fitness because you'll spend a lot of time running away from predators, check the back seat of your car for unexpected, teeth-gnashing passengers and avoid bathrooms. The last thing you want is to be caught, literally, with your pants down as a zombie crawls into the cubicle.

Eisenberg's droll scaredy-cat is a wonderful comic foil for Harrelson's goofball avenger, who is so moved at one point he confides: "I haven't cried like that since Titanic."

Stone and Breslin pull their weight too, shooting a fair few zombies as they search for a safe haven. Bill Murray's cameo as himself is a treat.

A SERIOUS MAN (15)

UNIVERSITY physics lecturer Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) is knocked for six when wife Judith (Sari Lennick) announces she wants a divorce so she can marry mutual friend Sy (Fred Melamed).

The children – daughter Sarah (Jessica McManus) and son Danny (Aaron Wolff) – don't appear fussed. Adding to Larry's woes, one of his students (David Kang) seems to think he can bribe his way to a passing grade and his brother Arthur (Richard Kind) has a troublesome ailment.

Unable to make contact with the chief rabbi, Larry tries to sort out myriad problems himself – but every good deed only leads to more misery.

A Serious Man is a deceptively simple portrait of a family in crisis, distinguished by a sharp script and terrific ensemble cast.

Following the unbearable tension of No Country For Old Men and the frippery of Burn After Reading, this wicked black comedy finds Joel and Ethan Coen in a quirky hinterland where they previously bowled strikes with The Big Lebowski.

Stuhlbarg adopts a permanent look of incredulity as his caring family man struggles to make sense of the cards life has dealt him. The supporting cast vividly bring their roles to life – Wolff is extremely watchable as the rock 'n' roll-mad teenager fast approaching his bar mitzvah – as the Coens add flecks of humour, some causing us to wince almost as much as the characters.

THE FOURTH KIND (15)

IN 1977, Steven Spielberg introduced audiences around the world to Close Encounters Of The Third Kind.

The film took its title from a scale devoted to alien encounters: the third kind refers to actual contact with extra-terrestrials. The encounters of the first kind are sightings of alien craft while the second kind refers to any encounter supported by evidence.

Olatunde Osunsanmi's fact-based thriller deals with encounters of the fourth kind – alien abduction – and centres on psychologist Dr Abigail Tyler (Jovovich), who runs a practice in Nome, Alaska, where there are an abnormally high number of people claiming to have been subjected to experimentation at the hands of visitors from another planet.

During her videotaped sessions, Abigail grows increasingly disturbed by similarities in her patients' accounts, challenging her beliefs about whether we are alone.

Colleague Abel Campos (Elias Koteas) is supportive but has serious doubts about Abigail's outlandish theories while local law maker, Sheriff August (Will Patton), is a hardened and gnarled cynic, who is concerned that Abigail's erratic behaviour poses a threat not only to herself but also to her children, Ashley (Mia McKenna-Bruce) and Ronnie (Raphael Coleman).

Cutting to and fro between glossy dramatisations and 'real' footage of director Osunsanmi interviewing the 'real' Dr Tyler, The Fourth Kind attempts to send chills down the spine with a supposedly authentic tale of people tormented by unseen horrors.

Grainy library footage sows seeds of doubt in the minds of viewers who are willing to suspend their disbelief, but since truth is stranger than fiction, surely a documentary would convey the point far more succinctly?



NOT SO HARD HITTING: Zombieland is, quite simply, hilarious

THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR – OPERATION: PENGUIN TAKEOVER (U)

KAMIKAZE penguins Private, Rico, Skipper and Kowalski embark on 10 hilarious missions destined to end in disaster in this first DVD for the feathered fiends from the Madagascar films, including favourite episodes from the animated Nickelodeon series The Penguins Of Madagascar.

The DVD includes Gone In A Flash, Launchtime, Haunted Habitat, Operation: Plush & Cover, Happy King Julien Day!, Paternal Egg-Stinct, Assault And Batteries, Penguiner Takes All, Two Feet High And Rising and Tangled In The Web.

WHERE TO WATCH WHAT'S ON

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Eureka Leisure Park ✆ Box office 0871 2208000

BECKENHAM ODEON
High Street ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD
28 The Broadway ✆ Box office 020 83031550

BLUEWATER SHOWCASE
Water Circus, South Village ✆ Box office 0871 2201000

BROADSTAIRS PALACE CINEMA
Harbour Street ✆ Box office 01843 865726

BROMLEY EMPIRE
242 High Street ✆ Box office 0870 5050007

CANTERBURY ODEON
St George's Place ✆ Box office 0871 2244007

CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE
170 High Street ✆ Box office 01634 338338

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Market Square ✆ Box office 01304 228000

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9 Market Place ✆ Box office 01795 591211

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Guildhall Street ✆ Box office 01303 221230

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Are you game enough to join in the festival?



THRILLING entertainment will be on offer at the Kent Game and Equine Festival next weekend.

Attracting more than 10,000 visitors to the Kent Showground at Detling every year, the two-day event has even more to tempt people in 2010. A brand new Indoor Equine Arena will host a variety of exciting events and international show jumper Geoff Billington will also be making an appearance.

The attractions include the Pony Club horse and hound challenge in the new arena, in which four local clubs – East Kent Hunt, Isle of Sheppey, West Street and South Down Hunt East – will compete to decide who has the greatest skill. Each team is made up of horse and rider, with a runner and hound, and their efforts will be judged by Billington, who will give two show jumping demonstrations daily and will be available to sign autographs.



On Saturday, spectators can enjoy the sports horse and competition stallion parade and a side-saddle demonstration. The fun continues on Sunday with a Native Breed stallion parade, and the Pony Club horse and hound challenge.

The shopping village boasts more than 100 equine and country trade stands, while other attractions will include clay shooting, air rifle coaching, dog shows, falconry, archery, racing ferrets, vintage tractors and the Game Cookery Theatre.

The event runs from 10am to 4pm both days, and tickets on the gate cost £8/£7 for adults, £6 for children and £23 for families.

Discounted advance tickets can be booked by calling 01749 813899 or visiting www.contour.uk.net.



Explore the roots of an influential sound

ONE of China's most original and influential young artists brings the sound of his homeland to Kent this week.

Drawing his inspiration from the wild grasslands of China's Xinjiang province, Mamer is credited with bringing tradition and evolution together with his haunting music. His songs have their roots firmly in traditional Kazakh folk song and dombra music, yet he also infuses them with elements of Western folk, rock and virtuosic performances on a number of instruments.

Now a cult figure on Beijing's underground scene, Mamer grew up in the musical tradition of Kazakh nomadic culture, yet developed a love of bands like The Doors, Yes and Pink Floyd.

With his debut album, Eagle, he confirms his position as 'the father of Chinagrass' – honest, simple music that both honours its roots and continues to evolve.

Using traditional instruments and lyrical, ambient sounds, he breathes life into ancient tunes and sings love songs to the grasslands of his childhood.

Mamer can be seen at the Brook Theatre in Chatham at 7.30pm tonight. Tickets cost £10/9 at www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking or by calling 01634 338338.

He will also be performing at Canterbury's Gulbenkian Theatre at 7.45pm on Wednesday, tickets cost £10. To book visit the website www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call 01227 769075.

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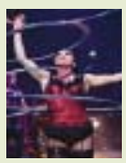


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Wed 17 March, 7.30pm
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The Hollies
Thu 18 March, 7.30pm
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Syd Lawrence Orchestra Live
Fri 19 March, 7.30pm
The best Big Band in the land directed by Chris Dean brings you a concert packed with your Big Band classics.
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Chuckle Brothers
Sat 20 March, 2pm
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Rocket Man
Sun 21 March, 7.30pm
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Celebrating creativity

CONTEMPORARY art produced on the Kent coast goes on display at a hotel near Dover next weekend.

Wallett's Court Country House Hotel at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe will host Creative Space, featuring works that have been made by artists on 'Kent's creative coast'. Visitors will be able to view pieces in a variety of media, including visually striking eternal exhibits and art installations throughout the grounds.

Wallett's Court is hosting the exhibition in order to provide a showcase for local artists and to promote the creative image of Kent's coastal area. A special free preview will take place next Saturday, when visitors can meet the artists and take part in workshops, as part of the Kent Big Day Out.

The exhibition runs until September 30 and can be viewed from 9am to 9pm daily, with free admission. See www.wallettscourt.com.



Don't cry for me

TIMELESS songs and unforgettable characters can be found in musical masterpiece Evita.

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's hugely successful musical begins its international tour at The Churchill in Bromley this week, remaining there for three weeks. Fans of this spectacular and emotional show should not miss it, as the dates at Bromley are the only planned UK performances this year.



The young Eva is ambitious and captivating, determined to achieve her ambitions and become a successful actress. Unafraid of using her femininity to advance her cause, Eva marries Argentine president Juan Peron and becomes an icon in her native country. Widespread national grief greets news of her death, but the narrator Ché questions just how self-serving Eva's behavior has been.

With songs such as Don't Cry For Me Argentina and You Must Love Me, it is no surprise Evita has become such a hit and the role of Eva is one of the most coveted in musical theatre.

Stepping into the formidable lady's shoes is West End star Abigail Jaye, whose credits include Dr Dolittle, Scrooge, and Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Evita runs at The Churchill from this Tuesday to Saturday, April 10.

Book tickets on the theatre website at www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley or call the box office on 0844 8717620.

There will be free backstage tours for ticket holders at noon every Saturday during the run, which must be booked in advance as places are limited.

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TV

MONDAY, MARCH 22

THE GOOD WIFE: Alicia Florrick is a wife and mother whose life is turned upside down when her husband is involved in a public sex scandal that lands him in prison.

Rising above the betrayal and humiliation, Alicia returns to work as a defence attorney at a prestigious Chicago firm to support her two children, taking charge of her own life for the first time in years.

In this episode, Alicia takes up the case when a senior partner in the firm is arrested, and the lawyer begins to doubt her husband's innocence when he's accused of corruption. ***(Channel 4, 10pm)***

A BAND FOR BRITAIN: Thirty years ago, there were more than 35,000 registered brass bands playing all over Great Britain.

Today, only 700 remain. This alarming decline of the once-proud brass band shows no sign of abating, but help comes in the shape of Sue Perkins, who hopes she can save The Dinnington Colliery Band before they go the same way as many of their contemporaries.

The Dinnington Colliery Band has been in existence in South Yorkshire for more than 100 years, and has survived the Depression, strikes and the mining pit closures.

But now, the group faces extinction because it is down to six members, and most of them are more than 70 years old.

Sue and die-hard band members Joan Hardman and her sister Kay have launched a plan to recruit new players and get them competing again. ***(BBC Two, 9pm)***

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

SUPERSIZE VS SUPERSKINNY: Since it began in 2008, this show has become something of guilty pleasure for viewers trying desperately to stave off the midweek blues.

For those who have not seen it before, Dr Christian Jessen presents as two subjects (one overweight and another underweight) swap diets for the week in the hope of proving too little food is as dangerous for one's health as too much, and the best diet is based on balance.

In the first episode, 24-stone Julie Treadeagle meets caffeine addict Jade Potts, who weighs just five-and-a-half stone.

Also this week, Anna Richardson investigates the latest diet products and exercise fads, and the show takes a glimpse into the lives of three women and one man in the grip of anorexia nervosa. ***(Channel 4, 8pm)***

WOMEN, WEDDINGS, WAR AND ME: This fascinating documentary offers plenty of food for thought. It centres on Nel, a 21-year-old Afghanistan woman who fled the country with her family and started a new life in Britain.

Cameras follow her as she returns to her homeland, where she discovers how the country has changed in the years since.

Aside from chatting to girls who risk being attacked for seeking an education, she also visits women imprisoned for 'morality crimes', and meets a young relative who sympathises with the Taliban.

Prepare to be stunned. ***(BBC Three, 9pm)***

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

NCIS: For seven years we've seen more petty officers turn up dead on this show than could possibly be enlisted in the US Navy.

It's a nice surprise then when one of them turns up alive. Well, it is Christmas in NCIS world, so maybe they've caught a festive break? Unfortunately, no, they haven't.

A police officer tells them an elderly couple have been murdered and the fingerprints of former petty officer Ned Quinn have been found at the scene. The problem is, Quinn is meant to have died in a fire in 1991.

It looks even worse for poor Ducky when the team learn he was the one who signed Quinn's death certificate. ***(Five, 9pm)***

TIMESHIFT: BREAD: A LOAF AFFAIR: So, what is the greatest thing since sliced bread?

The Exquisite Cuisine strand continues with a look at the humble loaf; not the kind of food you'd really expect to refer to as cuisine, but then, as this documentary shows, there has been nothing humble about bread in its long history with the British public.

Tom Baker narrates the programme that examines the evolution of the loaf in Britain and how at one time the bread people consumed had a lot to say about their social status. ***(BBC Four, 9pm)***

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

BUILD A NEW LIFE IN THE COUNTRY: In the penultimate edition of this series, Charlie Luxton visits a couple in Buckinghamshire, who are undergoing one of the most ambitious builds ever seen on the programme.

Several years ago, Rebecca and Jim swapped the south London suburb of Wimbledon for the rural Buckinghamshire village of Sherington.

They bought a 60s bungalow on a plot of land backing on to Rebecca's mother's house for £420,000. Their first step is to demolish the house and construct their dream Georgian-style home in its place.

With a budget of £350,000, Rebecca has spent a lot of time sourcing materials from across Europe, including windows from a Georgian house in London, doors from France and tiles from Geneva. Once the main work is done, the plan is to finish the rest of the build themselves. However, each job is taking longer than expected. Can the family pull together and finish its dream home? ***(Five, 8pm)***

RUSSELL HOWARD'S GOOD NEWS: He might still be best known as a regular panellist on Mock the Week, but this other topical comedy series from Russell Howard is building momentum as it returns tonight for a second stab at current events.

Russell puts his own spin on the week's biggest headlines, as well as picking up on some of the overlooked items from the past seven days on TV, online and in print, that are certain to raise a smile.

What's more, viewers at home have the chance to shape his news agenda by submitting stories on the BBC website or through Twitter. ***(BBC Three, 10.30pm)***

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

UNREPORTED WORLD: As a reporter for the critically acclaimed foreign affairs series Unreported World, Evan Williams has covered stories in some of the most extreme and hostile places on Earth.

So what can we expect from this new run? "I've just got back from Pakistan, where we've been looking at the continuation of militant groups," explains Evan. "We're looking at why it is that militant organisations are still allowed and can still operate in Pakistan. We can reveal more details in the story. And I'm about to go somewhere else, but I can't talk about it at this stage."

What methods does he employ to remain undetected during secret filming? "Moving quickly, being aware of your environment all the time, having things lined up as much as you can where you might be able to get what you need without further endangering the people you're meeting, and also keeping your head down. So you don't hang around in a place any longer than you have to, you keep moving." ***(Channel 4, 7.30pm)***

THE REVIEW SHOW: Countering the argument TV is dumbing down is this series that always offers informed opinions of what's hot and what's not in the arts.

In light of the Iraq Enquiry, it's little wonder TRS was quick to jump on Green Zone, director Paul Greengrass and Matt Damon's latest collaboration tackling the thorny subject of the hunt for weapons of mass destruction, so more topical subjects fall under the spotlight.

Admittedly show lacks that certain something which made Late Review so enjoyable in the 1990s; poet Tom Paulin and the dynamic between him, Mark Lawson, Tony Parsons and Allison Pearson was the stuff of TV gold.

However, guests such as American critic Joe Queenan make up for any shortcomings. The result can only be compelling TV for those who like to use their brain late on a Friday night. ***(BBC Two, 11.05pm)***



Let's all go on

KENT ON SUNDAY

REVIEW

BY **JANE CONNOLLY**

THOUSANDS of people will be enjoying some free fun next weekend with the Kent Big Day Out.

Now in its fourth year, the countywide scheme offers free admission to a wide variety of attractions across Kent, from steam railways to sporting clubs. Next Saturday will see 18,000 people enjoying a free day out, whether visiting an old favourite or discovering somewhere new.

Organised by Visit Kent at Kent County Council, the successful event has grown in popularity every year and there are no more tickets available. But the attractions will be open to the general public, so Kent Big Day Out might prompt those without free tickets to go out and see what is on offer in their county.

With more than 100 venues now taking part, Visit Kent's chief executive, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, was not surprised to see even more attractions signing up this year.

"It's a Kent-wide campaign to encourage days out and we have got the support of the media to help us push the word out, so it's a great pre-season promotion," she said. "The target is local residents. Sometimes local people can overlook what's on their doorsteps. It's a way of reminding residents so they realise what is in their vicinity."

The long list of participating attractions covers a broad range of interests and there really is something for everyone, from museums, stately homes and gardens to wildlife parks, golf courses and skate parks. Whether you fancied delving into the dark secrets of Chislehurst Caves or learning to throw shapes in style with the Saxon Stars Cheerleading Squad, this year's event offered a tempting selection of experiences.

Some new attractions simply joined because they could see the benefits of taking part, while others were prompted by public demand.

"The number of participating venues has gone up year by year and we're really pleased," Mrs Matthews-Marsh said. "There were many new venues coming forward that would like to be involved, but also the public were saying 'we would like to go swimming' and things like that, so that's been a reason for that response.

"The potential could grow and grow, because you could think about things like guided walks and cinema tickets. It could get bigger and bigger, really. We will be reviewing the take up after this year's Kent Big Day Out."

Although the enormous interest in the event has been evidence of its growing success, the huge demand for free tickets resulted in some technical problems this year. The website set up to deal with registrations struggled to cope with the amount of online visitors, so the system of applying for tickets had to be changed.

"The traffic was enormous, higher than in previous years, and we also had a website glitch which meant the site was just not coping with the amount of people trying to access it," Mrs Matthews-Marsh said.

"We took the decision to take the site down and we are using a different system which has worked on a ballot. It was much easier for residents to sign up for, the servers coped very well with the volume and it seems a fairer system, because names go into a hat against their chosen attraction."

Although it has not yet been decided which



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New heights of luxury with the latest launches

By **CHRIS MURPHY**



A VERITABLE flotilla of new cruise ships is set to take to the world's high seas this year.

If all launches go to schedule, there will be 13 fresh ships to sample, with destinations in every corner the globe has to offer.

Most will come from the same stables as those ships already in service, but three will be completely new.

It appears that while the rest of the world battles its way out of recession, many are taking to the oceans to escape reality – since 2008 there have been almost 40 new launches.

The three all-new ships for this year are the enormous Norwegian Epic, the smaller Le Boreal from France, and a three-mast tall ship called the Sea Cloud Hussar.

Costa Cruises has its new Costa Deliziosa, which is a 92,700-tonne ship that can cater for more than 2,200 people.

It is the sister ship to the Costa Luminosa, which only took to the water last year.

The Costa Deliziosa set off on its maiden voyage from Savona, Italy, at the start of February and will be based in Dubai until May, before arriving in Europe.

Prices currently range from £950 for an inside cabin to about £1,500 for a suite, and will be cruising the Emirates for a week.

German company Aida Cruises has seen the launch of its 69,200-tonne ship the Aidablu, which has room for just over 2,000 people.

It is the fourth launch from its popular Sphinx series, and will stick with the winning design of the other three from the class, which have 14 decks to explore.

MCS Cruises has also sent another vessel to sea – the Magnifica will come on stream this month.

The company said: "The most modern cruise fleet in the world continues to grow with the launch of majestic MSC Magnifica after a christening ceremony in Hamburg."

It can carry 2,518 passengers, most of them enjoying the luxury of a sea-facing cabin with private balcony, and there is a crew of more than 1,000.

On board are saunas and Turkish baths, a fitness centre, beauty salon, thalassotherapy room, relaxation area and massage rooms.

Plus there is a solarium, or choose from three swimming pools, including one with the ingenious 'Magrodome' retractable roof, making it perfect for winter cruising.



There is even tennis and basketball, or you can keep fit on the jogging track. Relax in the five restaurants, numerous bars, an internet café and a cigar lounge. In addition, there is a 1,200-seat theatre, cinema, casino and disco.

The ship will sail seven-day cruises in the eastern Med, between Venice and Bari.

Saga has lavished a multi-million pound refit on its Astoria, and rebranded it Saga Pearl II. It leaves Southampton this month.

It takes almost 450 passengers, and of course, being Saga is aimed at the over 50s. There is a casino and a late-night disco.

It will cover Europe, including a variety of itineraries to northern Europe, the Canary Islands, the Mediterranean, and the UK.

Another British company well-known in Kent is P&O.

The company said: "Our newest superliner Azura blends all the much-loved P&O Cruises traditions with modern luxuries.

Glamorous

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An area called The Retreat is where passengers can access the outdoor spa terrace, al fresco massages and wonderful views.

Michelin-star chef Atul Kochhar's venue Sindhu will serve dishes blending India's homeland spices with familiar British tastes.

The 116,000-tonne Azura takes more than 3,000 guests. It is due to leave Southampton on April 12 for the Mediterranean and northern Europe before crossing the Atlantic in late October to spend her first winter in the Caribbean and sail out of Barbados.

For something different, the Sea Cloud Hussar from Sea Cloud Cruises is a 136-passenger full-rigged, three-mast, tall ship.

The name has some history – the original, launched in 1931, was the largest private yacht ever.

The new Sea Cloud Hussar sets off on its inaugural voyage from Athens to Cyprus on November 4 and will then be based in the Middle East, where she will spend the winter doing round trip voyages from Dubai.

Cunard will reinforce its reputation for exquisite ocean travel with the arrival of its newest liner, Queen Elizabeth, in the autumn.

The company said: "The harmony of classic and contemporary strikes an elegant chord throughout this magnificent ship. Images and features from her predecessors, Queen Elizabeth and QE2, sit comfortably alongside her modern charm."

The launch is set for October 12 in Southampton. She will be a 92,000 tonne ship, taking care of just over 2,000 guests. Queen Elizabeth will be a slightly larger sister to the Queen Victoria, launched in December 2007.

The Queen Elizabeth will sail Mediterranean and European cruises in the first three months and then do a world cruise in January, 2011, from Southampton.

The Norwegian Epic from Norwegian Cruise Line will carry 4,200 passengers after its launch in June in Southampton.

It will cruise across the Atlantic for year round duties in the Caribbean.

Other launches are set to include Celebrity Eclipse from Celebrity Cruises, sailing northern Europe or the Mediterranean from Southampton within a few months. She will then move to Miami in November.

French company Compagnie du Ponant puts the Le Boreal in to service in May for just 220 passengers. More a huge yacht than a cruise liner, it makes luxury a point. It is aimed mainly at the French.

The Seabourn Sojourn from The Yachts of Seabourn has its christening at Greenwich in June.

Some 450 guests can then sail the British Isles and northern Europe over the summer and then it's on to the Mediterranean in the autumn, and finally the Caribbean.

Seabourn Sojourn will have her first world cruise next year, which will be a 99-day grand voyage from Los Angeles to Rome.

Nieuw Amsterdam from Holland America Line sets off on July 4, taking 2,100 passengers around the Mediterranean and Greek Islands before leaving for Florida and the Caribbean over the winter.

Finally, Allure of the Seas from Royal Caribbean Cruise Line launches before Christmas, and will take 5,400 passengers on seven-day cruises to either the eastern or western Caribbean.



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Day 3 Travemünde, Germany
Day 4 Copenhagen, Denmark
Day 5 At sea
Day 6 Stockholm, Sweden
Day 7 Helsinki, Finland
Days 8-9 St Petersburg, Russia
Day 10 Tallinn, Estonia
Day 11 Visby, Sweden
Day 12 Klaipeda, Lithuania
Day 13 Gdynia, Poland
Day 14 Rønne, Denmark
Days 14-15 Cruise the Kiel Canal
Day 16 Dover, England

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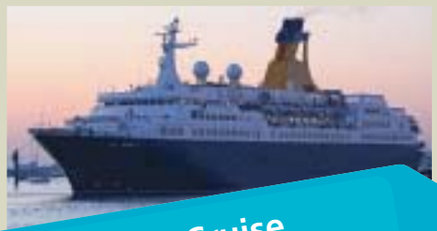
Cruise highlights

- Exploring Guernsey's tiny capital
- Seeing the Book of Kells in Dublin
- The opportunity to visit the Giant's Causeway
- Walking through the hallowed halls of Belfast's Queens University
- Visiting Cornwall's Eden Project on an optional excursion
- Kissing the stone at Blarney Castle on an optional tour

Day 1 Dover, England
Day 2 St Peter Port, Guernsey
Day 3 Falmouth, England
Day 4 Cobh (for Cork), Ireland
Day 5 Dublin, Ireland
Day 6 Greencastle (for Londonderry), Northern Ireland
Day 7 Belfast, Northern Ireland
Day 8 At sea
Day 9 Dover, England

Great value with so much included

- Travel insurance and additional cancellation cover
- Return mainland UK travel including our chauffeur car service if you live within 75 miles of Dover port
- All gratuities on board
- All meals included and served at leisurely single sittings
- Unlimited tea and coffee in the Verandah restaurant
- Late night buffets
- 24-hour room service
- All on-board entertainment
- Daily on-board activities
- Fruit and bottled water in your cabin
- Welcome cocktail party and Captain's dinner
- Porterage of luggage to your cabin
- All port taxes



Voted Top Cruise Operator according to Which? 2009 survey

For further information visit **saga.co.uk/kos** or call **0800 092 3075** quoting **KOS5.**

ABTA W8164 / W8170

§Price per person based on two people sharing a guaranteed inside cabin where you will receive your cabin number shortly before sailing and not at time of booking, further terms and conditions apply, please call for details. Fares quoted are the lowest available at the time of going to print and are subject to availability and change. Saga's holidays are exclusively for the over 50s. This is not a brochure. Terms and conditions apply. **SHA6182**

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- The most spacious standard accommodations – veranda staterooms are an amazing 282 square feet – as large as mini suites on the large ship premium lines
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- Owner's Suites are the only suites at sea decorated exclusively with *Ralph Lauren Home* furnishings and bedding
- Magnificent Reception Hall and glittering Lalique Grand Staircase
- Beloved signature spaces for which Oceania Cruises is famous – Martinis, Grand Bar, The Patio and Horizons
- The Grand Dining Room is truly grand, with 14-foot high ceilings and a stunning crystal chandelier
- Spacious Pool Deck and private cabanas clad in teak and imported stones

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

- Voyages to the most alluring ports of call in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Northern Europe
- Bon Appétit Culinary Center – the only hands-on cooking school at sea
- The Artists Loft – the most extensive studio at sea featuring instruction in watercolors, oil painting, scrapbooking, arts & crafts and much more
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- Ten dining venues, including six open-seating gourmet restaurants
- Two new specialty restaurants – Jacques and Red Ginger
- La Reserve – for wine tastings and pairing dinners
- Privée – the most exclusive private dining experience at sea
- Oceania Cruises' revered dining classics – Grand Dining Room, Polo Grill, Toscana and Terrace Café
- Gourmet burgers, sandwiches and barbecue at Waves Grill
- The most lavish Afternoon Tea at sea every afternoon in Horizons

For further information or to make a booking,
Call us on 0845 505 1920 or
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www.UK.OceaniaCruises.com

Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. PR027165C



You're on holiday just as soon as you step aboard

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

WITH full body scanners and endless queues at airports these days thanks to all the added security checks, it would be nice to simply get on board a luxury cruise ship docked on our doorstep and go.

As it turns out, it couldn't be simpler for those wanting to experience floating palaces packed with crews eager to make each trip a memory that will last forever.

Dover's cruise terminal has been going from strength to strength, and this year is set to be another good one for the local port.

For example, Disney Cruise Line is casting its magic over the dock. It has a 13-night holiday leaving on June 2 visiting Norway, Denmark, Germany, Russia, Finland, Sweden, and back to Dover.

Attractions to watch out for during the time in port include the shopping in Oslo, plus Viking Ship Museum, Akershus Castle, Vigeland Sculpture Pk, and Munch Museum.

In Copenhagen there's Stroget, palaces, Tivoli, Little Mermaid, and in St Petersburg, Russia, passengers can explore the Hermitage Museum, Winter Palace, and Peterhof Estate.

Helsinki has its Uspensky Cathedral, Temppeliaukio, and Roch Church; while Stockholm the Venice of the North has its National Museum, and Drottningholm Palace.

The cost is currently just over £2,800.

Fred. Olsen Cruises leaves Dover on May 3 for 13 days going to Portugal, Canary Islands, and back for under £1,100.



It will also do an eastern Mediterranean cruise for under £2,100, taking in Gibraltar, Sardinia, Sicily, Greece, Malta and Spain.

Princess Cruises takes in the Arctic for under £2,000. The trip is called Land of the Midnight Sun, and leaves Dover on June 7. It takes in several stops in Norway and Russia with 18 nights on board.

For £830, the company also does seven nights onboard for a trip to Ireland.

Page and Moy have 14 nights on board, leaving Dover on August 20 for Spain, Portugal, and Morocco among others for under £1,200.

And the Holland America Line does a Fjords and Highlands cruise for eight nights, costing under £1,200. It includes Norway and Scotland, naturally enough.

The Spirit of Adventure has a full itinerary this year, taking in cruises to ports around the British Isles, including Dartmouth, Tresco, Dublin, Holyhead, Belfast, Stornoway, and Newcastle before arriving back in Dover. That sets off on June 9.

Others go to Norway, Scandinavia in general, Iceland, and the fjords, and range from seven to 14 nights.

The company said: "We offer a small ship cruise experience to passengers over the age of 21 who would like to visit destinations where one may discover more about local culture, history, wildlife and scenery."

Dover launched its cruise service in 1996, and now has two terminals, making it the second largest in the UK.

It carried 190,000 passengers travelling with 37 different cruise lines in 2006.

The first £10 million terminal is set in the former marine railway station. This is a listed building so many of the original features were retained, creating an echo of a bygone era.

The second opened in 2000 and is purpose-built, with state-of-the-art facilities like spacious waiting rooms and snack bars. It is within walking distance of the town centre.

The Port said: "We are looking forward to a record year as we welcome more than 300,000 passengers.

"Our full programme for 2010 includes the first visit of Disney Magic which will sail from Dover on its five Northern European Capital cruises, as well as first-time visits from three Aida vessels – a result of our increasing partnership with this premium brand.

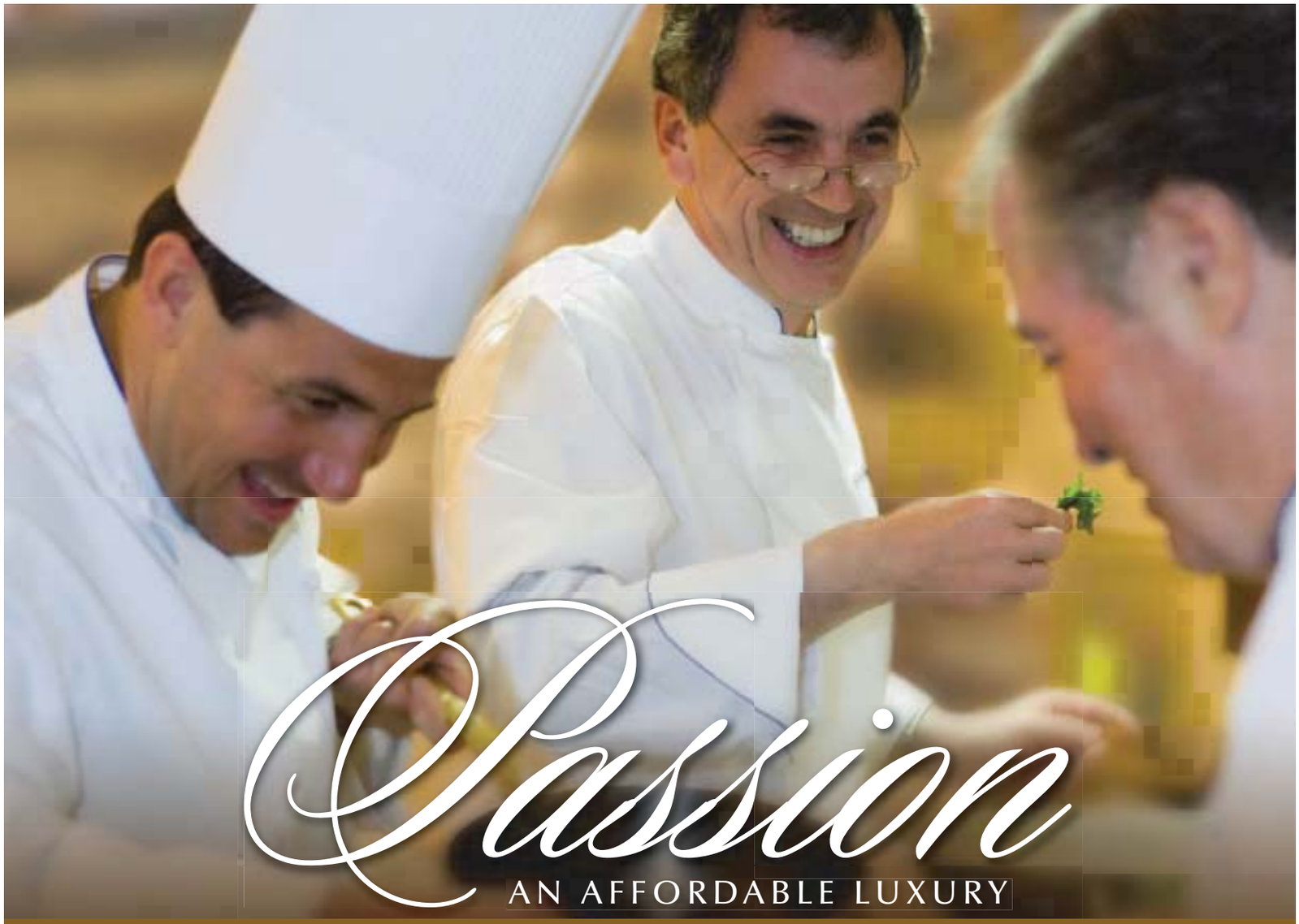
"The brand new vessels Seabourn Sojourn and Costa Deliziosa will be calling for the first time, as well as Tui Cruises' Mein Shiff, the MV Empress from Pullmantur, NCL's Norwegian Sun, the Ocean Princess, and the Grand Mistral from Iberocruceros.

"Holland America Line's Maasdam is also a first-time caller, with the signature class Eurodam operating a variety of cruises from our Kentish port.

"Fred. Olsen and Saga continue to retain a strong presence, utilising Dover as one of their preferred turnaround ports.

"There's also exciting news for the business this year, as the addition of a new Flybe route from Kent International to Edinburgh and the roll-out of the high-speed rail link from Dover to London put both capitals within easy reach of our customers.

"It looks like another busy year for Dover."








True passion is born when a team is devoted to perfection. Oceania Cruises' chefs present the finest culinary experience at sea as inspired by Master Chef Jacques Pépin. Dine whenever you wish and with whomever you choose in four complimentary gourmet restaurants. Immerse yourself in the cuisine and culture of more than 200 global destinations. Or simply relax with a massage in our Canyon Ranch SpaClub®.

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* Smaller, more intimate ships
* US and British officers







Baltic Adventure

May, June , Aug '11

12 nights from only

£1299 pp

NO FLYING EX DOVER | $100 ON BOARD CREDIT PER CABIN | MS EURODAM

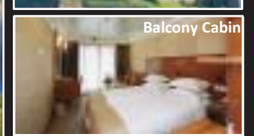
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Dover - Copenhagen (Denmark) - Warnemunde (Berlin, Germany)
Talinn (Estonia) - St. Petersburg (Russia, overnight)
Helsinki (Finland) - Nynashamin (Sweden) - Dover
Price shown based on 22nd May 2011









Fjords & Highlands

3rd June 2011

12 nights from only

£1299 pp

$100 ONBOARD CREDIT (per cabin) | CRUISE SHOW EXCLUSIVE | MS EURODAM

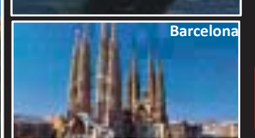
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Bergen (Norway) - Invergordon (UK) - S. Queensferry (Edinburgh, UK)
Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) - Dover (UK)









Mediterranean Medley

1st May 2011

20 nights from only

£1899 pp

$100 ONBOARD CREDIT (per cabin) | CRUISE SHOW EXCLUSIVE | MS RYNDAM

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Sete (France) - Villefranche-Sur-Mer (Nice) - Civitavecchia (Rome)
Alghero (Italy) - Eivissa (Ibiza) - Almeria (Spain) - Cadiz (Seville, Spain)
Portimao (Portugal) - Dover (UK)



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Dover Cruise Show exclusive Offers from Global Cruising



Xmas Markets & Kiel Canal

29th Nov 2010

8 nights from only

£549 pp

NO FLYING EX SOUTHAMPTON | £50 ON BOARD CREDIT PER CABIN | ONBOARD BALMORAL

Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 - Southampton (embark ship) ~ Day 2 - Relax Onboard
Day 3 - Gothenburg (Sweden) ~ Day 4 - Copenhagen (Denmark)
Day 5 - Kiel Canal transit ~ Day 6 - Hamburg (Germany)
Day 7 - Amsterdam (Holland) ~ Day 8 - Relax Onboard
Day 9 - Southampton (disembark ship)



Mini Cruise

27th Aug 2010

3 nights from only

£399 pp

NO FLYING EX DOVER | EXCELLENT FOR NEW CRUISERS | BRAEMAR

Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 Dover (embark ship)
Day 2 Guernsey
Day 3 Honfleur
Day 4 Dover (disembark ship)
LIMITED OUTSIDE CABINS AVAILABLE AT THIS PRICE



Baltic Capitals

8th Sept 2010

12 nights from only

£799 pp

NO FLYING EX DOVER | $150 ON BOARD CREDIT PER CABIN | FREE THEME RESTAURANT

NCL

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 - Dover (embark ship) ~ Day 2 - Relax Onboard
Day 3 - Copenhagen ~ Day 4 - Berlin ~ Day 5 - Relax Onboard
Day 6 - Tallin ~ Day 7 - St Petersburg (Overnight)
Day 8 - St Petersburg ~ Day 9 - Helsinki ~ Day 10 - Stockholm
Day 11 & 12 - Relax Onboard ~ Day 13 - Dover (disembark ship)



Iceland & Faroes Island

20th Sept 2010

14 nights from only

£999 pp

NORWEGIAN SUN | $150 ON BOARD CREDIT PER CABIN | FREE THEME RESTAURANT

NCL

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 - Dover (embark ship) ~ Day 2 - Relax Onboard
Day 3 - Bergen ~ Day 4 - Alsund ~ Day 5 - Lerwick
Day 6 - Torshavn ~ Day 7 - Relax Onboard ~ Day 8 - Reykjavik (inc. tour)
Day 9 - Relax Onboard ~ Day 10 - Relax Onboard
Day 11 - Greenock ~ Day 12 - Belfast ~ Day 13 - Dublin
Day 14 - Relax Onboard ~ Day 15 - Dover (disembark ship)



Baltic Surprise

17th May 2011

10 nights from only

£899 pp

NO FLYING EX SOUTHAMPTON | FREE PARKING AT PORT | EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH

MSC PREFERRED PARTNER

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 - Southampton (embark MSC Opera) ~ Day 2 - Amsterdam
Day 3 & 4 - Relax Onboard ~ Day 5 - Stockholm
Day 6 - Helsinki ~ Day 7 - St Petersburg ~ Day 8 - Relax Onboard
Day 9 - Copenhagen ~ Day 10 - Relax Onboard
Day 11 - Southampton (disembark ship)



Spectacular Norway

27th May 2010

8 nights from only

£749 pp

NO FLYING EX SOUTHAMPTON | FREE PARKING AT PORT | GLOBAL EXCLUSIVE

MSC PREFERRED PARTNER

YOUR INCREDIBLE ITINERARY - WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER ?

Day 1 Southampton (embark ship) ~ Day 2 Amsterdam
Day 3 Relax Onboard ~ Day 4 Bergen (inc. tour)
Day 5 Flaam ~ Day 6 Stavanger
Day 7 Oslo ~ Day 8 Relax Onboard
Day 9 Southampton (disembark ship)
Also June 28th - operates in reverse

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Whether you are a **Kentish Man** or a **Man of Kent**, Dover, Port of Kings is within easy reach. There is no need to get stuck in traffic on the M25, no need to check in 3 hours ahead, and no need to struggle with your bags. You can simply glide into the Cruise Port, your luggage is whisked away and in no time at all you are on board, already on holiday, without even having left the county.

With a Fred. Olsen Cruise booked by Travelux you can enjoy the added benefits of door to door transfers* or complimentary parking* making the transition from home to away even easier.

Throughout the Spring and Summer of 2010 the very fine Fred. Olsen ships Balmoral and Braemar will operate their cruise schedules out of Dover. With itineraries to the Baltic, Norway, Mediterranean or Canaries on offer there is a cruise adventure to suit you. Cruise for 3 nights to get a feel for life at sea or cruise for 3 weeks exploring the Adriatic or, if home is really where the heart is, cruise for 9 nights around the UK.

Travelux of Tenterden is the leading agent for Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines in Kent. We have been selling cruises for over 30 years and have all had experience of the Fred. Olsen fleet. We can reassure the newest cruiser, recommend to the seasoned traveller and realise anyone's cruising ambitions.

* Conditions apply

Dover Departures

Mediterranean Charms Cruise (L1005) - 22 May 2010 for 22 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cagliari, Sardinia, Scenic Cruise Isola Vulcano , Italy - Cruise Strait of Messina, Italy - Piraeus, Greece - Volos, Greece - Thessaloniki, Greece - Kavala, Greece - Valletta, Malta - Elvissa, Ibiza, Spain - La Coruna, Spain - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,709**

Gateway to the Arctic (L1008) - 2 July 2010 for 15 nts

Dover, Narvik - Norway, Honningsvag - Norway, Cruise Bear Island - Svalbard, Ny Alesund - Svalbard, Cruise Magdalenefjord - Svalbard, Longyearbyen - Svalbard, Tromso - Norway, Bergen - Norway, Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,369**

The French Collection (M1016) - 21 July 2010 for 8 nts

Dover, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Antwerp, Belgium, L'Orient, France, St. Malo, France, St. Peter Port - Guernsey, Honfleur - France, Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£669**

Canary Islands Cruise (M1017) - 29 July 2010 for 14 nts

Dover - Leixoes,Portugal - Arrecife,Lanzarote,Canary Islands - Santa Cruz de Tenerife,Canary Islands - San Sebastian La Gomera,Canary Islands - Santa Cruz de la Palma,Canary Islands - Funchal,Madeira - Vigo,Spain - Dover

Ship: Braemar — From **£1,079**

Western Mediterranean (L1011) - 7 August 2010 for 14 nts

Dover - Gibraltar - Cartagena - Livorno - Ajaccio - Eivissa - Lisbon - Dover

Ship: Balmoral — From **£1,109**

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- INDIVIDUAL DESIGN
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- KITCHEN OVERLOOKING GARDEN

REF: Prestige_560015





Rochester OIEO £475,000
- DETACHED HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- UTILITY ROOM
- DRIVEWAY
- GARAGE

REF: Prestige_560105





Chatham £375,000
- DETACHED HOUSE
- 5 BEDROOMS
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE | DRESSING ROOM TO MASTER
- DETACHED GARAGE
- SUITABLE FOR OFFICE / HOME WORKING
- SPACIOUS THROUGHOUT
- CLOSE TO M2 / M20

REF: Prestige_560445





Higham £650,000
- DETACHED HOME
- 5 BEDROOMS
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- PRIVATE ROAD
- INDIVIDUALLY BUILT
- UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS
- VICINITY OF OAKS HILL
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION

REF: Prestige_560035





East Farleigh £510,000
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE
- DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- CONSERVATORY
- FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
- VILLAGE LOCATION

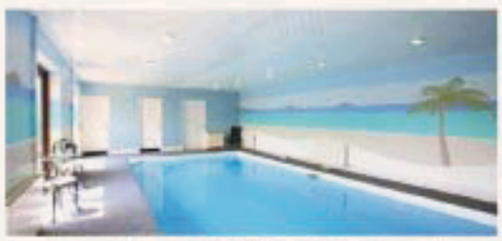
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Walderslade £619,995
- 5 BED DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEXE
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- SUN TERRACE
- UTILITY ROOM
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM

REF: Prestige_598045





Iwade
- 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- 1 BEDROOM ANNEX
- APPROX 28FT LOUNGE

Guide Price £550,000 - £575,000
- HIGH SPEC KITCHEN
- INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
- GAMES ROOM
- 3 GARAGES (2 DOUBLES)

REF: Prestige_560065





Walderslade £525,000
- EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- VILLAGE LOCATION
- EN-SUITE
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- STUDY
- DOUBLE GARAGE

REF: Prestige_596075





Isle of Sheppey OIEO £550,000
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
- APPROX 2.5 ACRES
- PADDOCKS
- 2 RECEPTIONS
- RIVER VIEWS
- STABLE BLOCK
- STORE BARN
- CELLAR

REF: Prestige_598055



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Wigmore £325,000

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- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- INDIVIDUAL DESIGN
- LOUNGE, DINER / STUDY
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GOOD SIZE GARDEN
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- LOTS OF POTENTIAL

REF: Prestige_660575





Hempstead £350,000

- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- LARGE ENTRANCE HALL
- SEPARATE DINING ROOM
- LOUNGE
- CLOAK ROOM & UTILITY ROOM
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- INTEGRAL GARAGE
- AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING

REF: Prestige_630730



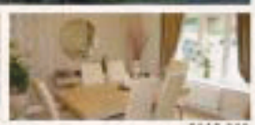


Strood £325,000

- 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONVERTED CELLAR
- ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- WELL PRESENTED
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDENS

REF: Prestige_519025





Walderslade £365,000

- DETACHED HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- QUIET GATED DEVELOPMENT
- EN-SUITE
- POPULAR LOCATION
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Prestige_660915





Harrietsham £440,000

- EXECUTIVE 4 BED DETACHED HOUSE
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST/FAMILY AREA
- 22FT LOUNGE / FEATURE FIRE PLACE
- SEPARATE FAMILY DINING ROOM
- STUDY & UTILITY ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- VILLAGE LOCATION

REF: Prestige_630600





Kings Hill £525,000

- 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- 2 SPACIOUS RECEPTION ROOMS
- MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY ROOM & DOWNSTAIRS CLOAK
- ENSUITES TO 2 BEDROOMS
- 2 FAMILY BATHROOMS
- DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- WALKWAY POSITION

REF: Prestige_614465





Walderslade £350,000

- DETACHED CHALET STYLE HOUSE
- 4 BEDROOMS
- "L" SHAPED LOUNGE / DINER
- 2ND RECEPTION / STUDY
- GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING
- LARGE SECLUDED PLOT

REF: Prestige_660915





Rochester £350,000

- CHARACTER HOME
- 4 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- 2 BATHROOMS
- HISTORIC ROCHESTER
- CONVERTED CELLAR
- WALKING DISTANCE TO STATION
- CLOSE TO M2 / M20

REF: Prestige_630345





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- ENSUITE TO MASTER BED
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- GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- LARGE SECLUDED PLOT

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VII-XXIV **RESIDENTIAL**
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Buyers take the high-speed route

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

KENT'S bullet trains will help get the housing market back to where it belongs, claims one estate agent.

It is traditional to expect the home-buying market to pick up in spring, and new figures are showing we are edging further out of recession. It's all good news for a decent 2010 in Ashford and the surrounding areas, the agent said.

The new High Speed 1 train link to London – starting to be known locally as 'The Bullet' – is already a massive attraction for potential commuters.

Ashford-based estate agent Hobbs Parker has found its books filling with a new demographic of buyer.

They are Londoners who currently live 'north of the river' and there are plenty from the East End, too.

Traditionally, the majority of Londoners who used to wend their way to Ashford and the villages that surround the town were from south London.

Buyers in search of the rural dream hunted along the M20 and existing rail corridor, attracted by a life in the countryside.

Some found themselves priced out of established commuting hot spots and ended up further down the line.

But since the new trains started service, Alex Davies, Hobbs Parker's head of country houses, has increasingly seen numbers of would-be buyers from north London.

It's not just those who work in the City who are coming either. Mr Davies points out the 37-minute service into St Pancras suddenly opens the field to regular commuters who need to be at work in the West End or, as the Stratford connection develops, Docklands.

He said there is no more struggling on the Tube's Northern line as it is possible now to exchange a Sunday afternoon walk on Primrose Hill for the primroses on a North Downs hill.



NEW LINKS: High-speed trains are opening up the county to a new group of buyers

Many north Londoners are quickly switching their notion of The Old Rectory in Essex or Hertfordshire to an idyllic Kentish farmhouse with its milk-white clapboard and russet-hued peg tiles.

This is good news for the housing market in Ashford, but Mr Davies also has a warning. He points out that for many Londoners, while the idea of cashing in and buying their dream home is appealing, they need to have the budget to match.

He said: "Many buyers need to be realistic about their expectations.

"They are more often professional couples in their 30s and 40s with young children drawn to the vision of raising children in the country, and are especially interested in Kent's schools.

"Sadly though, I have to disappoint a number as to what their money will buy.

"The expectation is that you can swap a Victorian family terrace in the London suburbs for a sizeable farmhouse with land, and in many cases this can be sufficient.

"But some buyers should look again at their budget in an under-supplied marketplace. Alternatively, align expectations and there are lots of extremely attractive houses, especially in the villages, that would make glorious family homes – and well within budget."

New homes market boost

A KENT developer managed to sell a staggering 60 per cent of its apartments at a new development in its opening weekend.

It's another indication the housing market is creeping out of the slump.

Fairview New Homes said it is delighted with the way sales are going at its new riverside apartments at The Mill, South Darenth.

The popular new homes have views over the River Darenth and are located on the site of the landmark Horton Kirby Paper Mill, with original cobbled streets running through.

Fairview helped things along during February by offering a further month's break from the dreaded stamp duty, which has just come out of its government holiday despite protests from the industry.

Fairview's new homes sale directors Jim Holliday said: "The stamp duty holiday ended on December 31, but this New Year gift from Fairview means you can save up to £1,750 on homes at The Mill valued up to £175,000 – a welcome saving at any time of the year."

Located in the rural village of South Darenth, The Mill is less than seven miles from Ebbsfleet International train station which, with its new high-speed trains, means you can be in central London in just 17 minutes.

Not only does The Mill provide a time-saving solution to the daily commute, but it offers homebuyers picturesque and historic surroundings to enjoy.

New buyers said they liked the idea that Bluewater shopping centre is less than five miles away and historic Leeds Castle is about half an hour by car.

Move up to new heights

A NEW development in a leafy area of Folkestone has been launched.

Westbourne Heights is Pentland Homes' new offering in Coolinge Lane.

The company said it was happy with the number of visitors already, and that three properties were reserved.

It is a mix of 13 three, four and five-bedroom family homes in a smart setting alongside playing fields.

Janet Burnell, sales and marketing director of Pentland Homes, said: "This is a sought-after location, and we have created a range of two and three-storey homes which appeal to a variety of people.

"New homes often undergo criticism for being cramped, but we have defied that concept by creating spacious, open-plan, light and bright houses, which is why they've proved to be so popular."

Even the smallest three-bedroom house at Westbourne Heights is 500 sq ft larger than the average newly built home, at approx 1,302 sq ft, and interiors are designed to maximise space, with different layouts to suit a variety of purchasers, the company said.

Some homes have kitchen/dining areas with separate living rooms, and some have expansive open-plan kitchen/dining/family rooms.

Ms Burnell said all the homes are finished to an exceptionally high standard.

Kitchens are fully fitted with a choice of curved stone worktops – the latest design for kitchens – and units from the Pentland range.



Integrated appliances such as double electric oven, five-burner gas hob, microwave, full height fridge, full-height freezer and dishwasher are all included, too.

Bathrooms and en-suites include crisp white sanitary ware and heated towel rails.

Prices start from approximately £294,995 for a three-bedroom home. For further information and to view, call 01303 893080 or visit www.pentlandhomes.co.uk.

LOOK





new 5 bedroom detached home available at £466,000.

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*Terms and conditions apply. Offer available on selected plots only. Prices correct at time of going to press. Specification on site may vary. We reserve the right to refuse a part exchange, terms and conditions can be found at www.bellway.co.uk

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FOLKESTONE £120,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03158

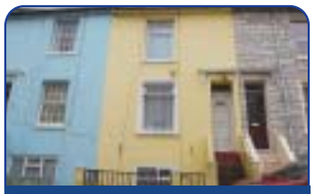
- 2 bedroom terrace
- Fully renovated
- No chain



DOVER £189,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03176

- 4 bed semi detached house
- Garage
- Approx 55ft rear garden



FOLKESTONE £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03198

- 3 bedroom terrace
- No onward chain
- Keys available



FOLKESTONE £174,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03039

- 4 Bedroom terraced
- Superb decorative order
- Large rooms



CHERITON £135,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03138

- 3 bed semi detached
- Needs modernisation
- Front and rear gardens



CHERITON £190,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02990

- Superb three bedroom house
- 2 bathrooms
- Garage and no chain



SANDGATE £224,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03150

- 3 bedroom terraced
- High spec renovation
- Roof terrace/ No chain



SANDGATE £224,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03149

- 3 bedroom terraced
- High spec renovation
- Roof terrace/No chain



SANDGATE £104,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03120

- 1 bedroom flat
- No chain
- GFCH



HOMEPINE HOUSE £114,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03098

- 2 bedroom apartment
- private balcony
- retirement apartment



FOLKESTONE £87,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03109

- 1 bedroom retirement flat
- Sea views
- No chain



HYTHE £259,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03053

- 6 bedroom terraced
- GCH/garden
- Conservatory



FOLKESTONE £135,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03171

- 23ft lounge/diner
- 3 bedrooms
- Quiet cul-de-sac location, no chain



FOLKESTONE OIEO £124,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03156

- NO CHAIN
- 1/2 bed apartment
- Private garden



FOLKESTONE £214,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03207

- 5 bedroom semi
- 2 reception rooms
- Enclosed rear garden



SANDGATE £109,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02937

- One bed apartment
- Walking distance to beach
- Off road parking



METROPOLE £209,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03089

- 3 bedroom apartment
- Sea views and no chain
- Fully renovated



DOVER £60,000 - £95,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03162

- Six flats in the heart of the town,
- Studio-2 bed, Newly renovated
- Off road parking/DG/GCH



DOVER £60,000 - £95,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03161

- Five flats in the heart of the town,
- 2 beds, Newly renovated
- Off road parking/DG/GCH



DOVER OIXE £95,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03179

- 2 bed mid terraced house
- Fully D/G and GCH
- Courtyard garden



FOLKESTONE £155,500

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02930

- Three bedroom semi
- Conservatory
- Garage and driveway



WEST END £129,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03189

- 2 bed apartment
- Parking subject to availability
- No onward chain



WEST END £175,000

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03060

- 3 bed apartment
- Roof terrace
- Fully fitted bar



CAPEL-LE-FERNE £299,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03128

- 3 bed detached bungalow
- No chain
- OSP & single garage



FOLKESTONE £374,995

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP03140

- 5 bed detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Sea views

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RAMSGATE £239,995

- TOO MUCH HOUSE
- Detached family Home
- Conservatory - Lavish Gds



RAMSGATE £225,000

- Extended 4 Bedroom Semi
- Conservatory, Parking & 2 Receps
- Immaculate Throughout



RAMSGATE £249,995

- Five bedrooms
- Two receptions rooms
- Popular location



BROADSTAIRS £287,500

- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Excellent Quality In & Out
- Exceptionally Large Home



BROADSTAIRS £450,000

- Executive detached family home
- Five bedrooms, 2 Ensuites
- Cul de sac location



BIRCHINGTON £215,000

- Four Double Bed & EnSuite
- Semi-Detached + OSP + Garage
- NHBC Guaranteed



BIRCHINGTON £285,000

- Three Bed Detached Home
- Cul-De-Sac Setting
- Open Sea Views over Epple Bay



BIRCHINGTON £239,950

- Three Bed Detached Bungalow
- Fully Refurbished Throughout
- Family Bathroom + En-Suite



BIRCHINGTON £114,995

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Purpose Built Apartment
- Allocated Parking



BIRCHINGTON £110,000

- Two Double Bed Apartment
- Ground Floor, Self Contained
- Approx 30'x25' Rear Garden



WESTGATE-ON-SEA £147,500

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Secure Gated Development
- Osp, Gfch, Sudg



WESTBROOK £229,995

- 3/4 Bed Detached
- Double Garage
- Sudg. Gfch & Osp



WESTBROOK £197,500

- Sought After Family Home
- Three Bed & Conservatory
- No Forward Chain





WESTGATE-ON-SEA £215,000

- Refurbished throughout
- 2/3 bedrooms
- No forward chain



MARGATE £59,995

- Two bedroom apartment
- Stunning sea views
- Off Street Parking



GARLINGE £117,500

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- En Suite to master bedroom
- Modern Fitted Kitchen



MARGATE £134,995

- Spacious Three Bedrooms
- Good Order Throughout
- 62ft Rear Gardens



GARLINGE £144,995

- Three Bedroom Family Home
- Off Street Parking to Front
- CHAIN FREE!



MARGATE £169,995

- Spacious Four Bedrooms
- 19ft Kitchen Breakfast Room
- Excellent Order Throughout!



CLIFTONVILLE £90,000

- One Bedroom
- Direct Sea Views
- No Onward Chain



MARGATE £124,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking, 70ft Garden
- No Onward Chain



MARGATE £119,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- No Onward Chain



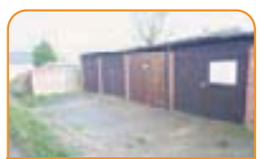
PALM BAY £279,995

- Six Double Bedrooms
- 23'2 x 17'8 Lounge
- Sea Views



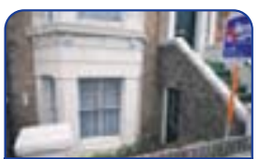
CLIFTONVILLE £75,000

- Two bedrooms
- Split level apartment
- No onward chain



MARGATE £29,950

- Investment opportunity
- 4 garages
- Ideal location



MARGATE £77,500

- No forward chain
- Ideal investment for FTB
- Spacious living accommodation



MARGATE £79,995

- Modernised 2 bedroom flat
- No Forward Chain !!
- Close to sea and local amenities



MARGATE £99,995

- 2 bed, purpose built flat
- Ideal BTL
- No Forward Chain



MARGATE £114,995

- Versatile accommodation
- Close to local amenities
- NO FORWARD CHAIN !!



MARGATE £249,995

- Stunning family home
- Close to most local amenities
- Superb size accommodation

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BROADSTAIRS £279,950

- Detached Bungalow with Farm Views!
- 3 Bedrooms, 24'Lounge/Diner
- 80' x 50' Rear Garden



WESTBROOK £289,995

- Five bedroom detached house
- Three reception rooms
- 150ft+ gardens - Very Deceptive!



WESTBROOK £249,995

- 4/5 Bed Semi
- No Forward Chain
- Osp, Gfch & Sudg



BIRCHINGTON £299,995

- 4 Bedrooms & 2 Reception Rooms
- Un-Interupted Sea Views
- OSP & Garage. DG & GCH



MINSTER £152,500

- 3 bed country cottage
- original features - No Chain
- Large 120 gds



PALM BAY £159,995

- 2 Bedrooms, Communal Gardens
- Spacious, Allocated Parking
- Desireable Location



BROADSTAIRS £156,950

- 3 Bed Semi with No Chain!
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden, Pot O/S/P



KINGSGATE £184,995

- NO CHAIN! 2 Bedrooms
- 18' Lounge, 80' Rear Garden
- Garage and OSP For 3 Cars



BROADSTAIRS £149,995

- 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner
- Gas C/htg, Double Glazing
- Hot Tub, Well Presented!



CLIFTONVILLE £155,995

- 3 Bedrooms, Garage, OSP
- South Facing Garden
- NO CHAIN!



BROADSTAIRS £250,000

- Detached three bed bungalow
- Off street parking and garage
- Sought after location



BROADSTAIRS £345,000

- Location location location
- Stunning sea views
- Must be viewed



BROADSTAIRS £249,950

- 2/3 BED, GFCH & SUDG WDWS
- 22' Conservatory.
- 15' Lounge. Viewings a must.



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BROADSTAIRS £169,500

- A Stones Throw From The Seafront
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Sea Views - No Chain



RAMSGATE £134,995

- Stunning 2 Bedroom Home
- Exceptional Condition
- Desirable Central Location



RAMSGATE £154,995

- 3 Bedroom Terrace Home
- Beautiful Condition & Prime Location
- Good Sizes Throughout



RAMSGATE £122,995

- 2/3 Bedroom Terraced Home
- Outstanding Condition
- Lounge & Kitchen/Breakfast Room



RAMSGATE £239,995

- Extended 4 Bedroom Detached
- Lovely Interior and Gardens
- Beautiful & Spacious Interior



RAMSGATE £74,995

- One bedroom
- Ground floor
- Rear garden



RAMSGATE £154,995

- Three bed bay fronted house
- Original features
- No Forward Chain



RAMSGATE £159,995

- Two Bedroom cottage
- Recently refurbished
- Secluded locations



RAMSGATE £124,995

- Two bedrooms
- No forward chain
- Eastcliff location



RAMSGATE £119,995

- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace
- Some TLC Required
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £129,995

- 2 Bed Victorian Terrace
- Sought After Location
- No Chain Involved



RAMSGATE £124,995

- Panoramic Harbour Views
- 2 Bedrooms
- Lift Service & No Chain



RAMSGATE £169,995

- Extended 3 Bed Semi
- Off Street Parking
- 2 Receps plus kitchen/Diner



RAMSGATE £175,000

- Nethercourt £175,000
- The Ulimate in Bungalows
- High satndards throughout



RAMSGATE £179,950

- 2 bed det bunglaow
- Sought after Hillcrest Road
- Cul de sac - No chain



PEGWELL £225,000

- Double fronted det bungalow
- Lavish Gds
- Sought after location



RAMSGATE £239,995

- A very important house!
- Large characterful detached
- Large Gardens - A One Off

Miles & Barr are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £125,000 for 25 Addiscombe Road, Margate, Kent. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Matt Brisley, Miles & Barr 020, 51 Queen Street, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9EJ. Tel: 01843 231222 before exchange of contracts.

RAMSGATE t 01843 570 500 **CLIFTONVILLE** t 01843 231 222 **WESTGATE** t 01843 836 655 milesandbarr.co.uk/thanet

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Chestfield £280,000

Two bedroom semi detached house situated. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. Garden, driveway for multiple vehicles, views from the front and the rear of the property.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Faversham Offers Over £140,000

Two bedroom coach house style property. Fitted kitchen with integral appliances, lounge, bathroom, d/glazing, c/heating & allocated under cover parking.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Faversham £139,995

Recently updated two bed end of terrace house. D/glazing, c/heating & garden. No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Selling £225,000

Extended 3 bedroom home for sale. Kitchen/dining room, conservatory & garden that backs onto farmland. No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Aylesham £145,000

A must see! Three bedroom family home in quiet location, lounge, newly fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, workshop, tandem garage, off road parking.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Canterbury £209,950

Two bed first floor apartment situated on the new development of Barton Mill road offering easy access to Canterbury city centre and local superstores.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253





Chartham £209,950

Three bed end of terrace house. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom & attic room. C/heating, d/glazing. Garden, garage.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



Faversham £155,000

Three bedroom house. Lounge overlooking the rear garden, Fitted Kitchen/diner, bathroom with separate Wc, No chain.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Faversham £270,000

Three bedroom detached house. Two reception areas both with access to the garden. Garage. Would strongly recommend an appointment to view.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



Chartham Hatch £309,950

Three bed semi detached home. Lounge, conservatory, kitchen/diner, bathroom with veranda from the master bedroom.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253

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Mersham £250,000

Former coach house, reception room, fitted kitchen, dining room, two further bedrooms and bathroom, garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Willesborough £265,000

End of terrace, two bedroom, Kitchen, lounge, dining room, bathroom & garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £259,000

Four bedroom detached home, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, WC, utility room, en suite to master, detached garage and driveway.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £169,950

Two bedroom home, lounge, open plan kitchen, dining room, master suite, bathroom. Garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £150,000

Two bedroom bungalow. Modern fitted kitchen, en-suite facilities to bedrooms, Off road parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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- Hassle free purchases
- Opportunity for buyers to move fast

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Willesborough Offers in excess of £230,000

Detached chalet bungalow, 3 bedroom accommodation (1 en suite), 24ft reception room, kitchen/dining room.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Kingsnorth £158,000

Two bedroom end of terrace, current owner has been renting it out for the past six years.

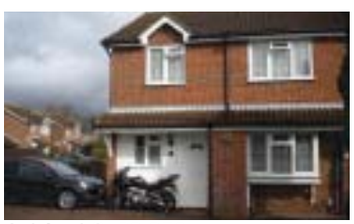
Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £132,500

Top floor apartment, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms, en-suite to master. d/glazing, c/heating, fitted kitchens allocated parking.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £129,950

Property in the Victoria Park, two bedrooms.
Kitchen, sitting room & off road parking for two/three cars.

Ashford Office 01233 624561



Ashford £94,950

Two bedroom first floor flat. lounge/diner, c/heating, d/glazing, bathroom, modern fitted kitchen, internal & external storage sheds.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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New Romney £249,995
Cottage is set over three floors. Sitting room, kitchen/ dining room and cellar. Three bedrooms & bathroom. Garden & garage.
Dover Office 01304 207099



Dover £235,000
Three bedroom fourth floor apartment with sea views. Lounge, study, fitted kitchen, separate w.c., bathroom, two balconies and garage en bloc.
New Romney 01797 363194



New Romney £179,995
Two bedroom character property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun lounge, first floor bathroom, 100ft rear garden. Retaining many original features.
Folkestone Office 01303 250757



Dover £139,950
Two bedroom second floor apartment. Lounge, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom w.c. Communal gardens.
New Romney 01797 363194



Dover OIEO £135,000
Three bedroom semi detached house with central heating and double glazing. Lounge. Kitchen/Diner. Bathroom. Rear Garden. Side access.
Dover Office 01304 207099





Dover Asking Price £155,000
Three bed semi-detached family home. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, enclosed rear lawned garden with views.
Kearsney Office 01304 823714



Folkestone £119,950
Three bedroom family home. Lounge/dining room and kitchen to the ground floor and bathroom. To the rear is a small courtyard area.
Dover Office 01304 207099



St. Marys Bay £229,950
Three bed detached bungalow. Modern kitchen & bathroom. Garage & Off road parking. Double glazing & central heating.
Folkestone Office 01303 250757



Dover £275,000
Five bedroom period family home. Garden, garage with roller door and patio terrace above, two separate reception rooms and kitchen.
New Romney 01797 363194



Hythe £239,995
Ormonde Road, conveniently located within level walking distance of the high street and the seafront. Hythe. Four bedrooms, lounge with open planned dining area, kitchen & bathroom.
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Sittingbourne
- Two bedroom period cottage
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen, bathroom.
- An early viewing is recommended

Offers in excess of £160,000
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961





Sittingbourne
- Three bedrooms detached family home
- Living room, Kitchen/dining room
- Conservatory, driveway & garage.

Offers in excess of £190,000
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sittingbourne
- Three/Four bedroom link detached property
- Two reception rooms, cloakroom
- Parking for three cars, rear garden

Asking Price £190,000
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sheerness
- Three bedroom detached house
- Lounge, kitchen, bathroom.
- Conservatory, garden , garage & parking

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sittingbourne
- Semi detached family home
- Three bedroom, garage & driveway parking
- Conservatory & garden

£172,500
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Queenborough
- Three bedroom house
- Kitchen with dining area
- En suite shower room, bathroom

Offers in excess of £155,000
CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



7Sheerness
- Two bedroom link detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner & family bathroom.
- Off road parking & garage, garden

CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255



Sheerness
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Two reception rooms, Conservatory
- Double glazing & central heating

Offers in excess of £120,000
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sittingbourne
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom
- C/heating, d/glazing, rear garden

£115,000
CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



PUBLIC NOTICE
13 Smeed Close, Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3NP
We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £105,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of coontracts takes place.

CALL OUR SITTINGBOURNE OFFICE 01795 426961



Sheerness,
- One bedroom ground floor flat
- Located in Minster close to the Leas
- Lounge/kitchen, bathroom, communal garden

£60,000
CALL OUR SHEERNESS OFFICE 01795 660255

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Considering selling your home?

Local Offices

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Willesborough
01233 635737

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Sales

Part of Countrywide PLC - The largest Estate Agency group



Ashford
- Detached family home
- Lounge, dining area, kitchen
- Study room, bathroom, utility area
- Garage, garden, off street parking

£294,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934





Kingsnorth
- Four bedroom family detached home
- Lounge, dining area, kitchen
- Garden

£294,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Mersham
- Three Bedroom detached period cottage
- Grade II Listed
- Two receptions, exposed beams,

£250,000

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Ashford
- Three bedroom detached house
- Dining room lounge, fitted kitchen
- En-suite to master, bathroom, garage

£214,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough
- Three bedroom detached house
- Cloakroom, kitchen, lounge
- Conservatory, shower room, garage

£212,500

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Ashford
- Three bedroom detached house
- Lounge,diner, kitchen
- Conservatory, bathroom, garage

£209,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Cloakroom, lounge, kitchen,
- Dining room, bathroom, conservatory

£192,000

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Willesborough
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner,
- Conservatory. bathroom, parking

£185,000

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Tenterden
- Character terrace cottage located
- Lounge, fitted kitchen,
- Cloakroom, two bedrooms

£164,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934



Willesborough
- Two bedroom terrace house, Lounge
- Kitchen/diner bathroom
- Off road parking & garden

£145,000

CALL OUR WILLESBOROUGH OFFICE 01233 635737



Ashford
- Two bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge
- Kitchen with units

£144,995

CALL OUR ASHFORD OFFICE 01233 639934

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Grove Green
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Maidstone
01622 757213

Sheerness
01795 660255

Sittingbourne
01795 426961

Willesborough
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Sales



Canterbury
- One bedroom ground floor apartment,
- Open-living layout, kitchen/dining area
- Lounge, utility room,
- D/glazing & c/heating.
- Off road parking

Offers in excess of £150,000
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Birchington
- Three bedroom detached
- Kitchen, lounge
- Dining room & utility room, Bathroom

£490,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury
- Three bed detached Old Dairy House
- Lounge, dining room,
- Kitchen, bathroom, off road parking

£400,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury
- Delightful family home
- Two receptions, kitchen
- Three bedrooms, bathroom, Garage

Offers in excess of £280,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury
- Four bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen, study
- Bathroom, c/heating, d/glazing, Garage

Offers in excess of £270,000
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Canterbury
- Three bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- Conservatory, bathroom, parking

Offers in excess of £230,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen, bathroom
- Central heating system, gardens

Offers in excess of £180,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Hersden
- Three bedroom terrace home
- Dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility room
- Conservatory, bathroom

Offers in excess of £159,995
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Wingham
- Two bedroom retirement cottage
- Village of Wingham.
- Internal viewing recommended.

£159,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Canterbury,
- Two bedroom end terrace house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom
- Front and rear gardens

£140,000
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125



Aylesham
- Two bedroom terraced house.
- Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom.
- D/glazing, c/heating, off road parking

£119,995
CALL OUR CANTERBURY OFFICE 01227 454125

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The Property Ombudsman

Bairstow eves

Canterbury 01227 765527

canterbury@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

Herne Bay



Offers in excess of £130,000

Brand new sustainable homes! Two bedroom properties located in the sea side town of Herne Bay.

Herne Bay



Offers in excess of £130,000

Brand new sustainable homes! Two bedroom properties located in the sea side town of Herne Bay.

Aylesham



£132,500

Three bedroom end of terraced home and gardens. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating.

Petham



£151,950

Purpose built ground floor flat, communal parking area. D. g. and has bottled calor gas for cooking.

Hersden



£154,995

Two double bed property. Lounge, kitchen/diner and conservatory. Upstairs you will find two beds & bathroom.

Canterbury



£209,950

JUST MOVE IN! Set within the Barton Mill development is this spacious split level apartment.

Tyler Hill



£299,995

Detached three bedroom family home. Front & rear gardens, cloakroom, fitted kitchen, utility area, lounge.

Canterbury



£350,000

Three bedr extended semi-detached. Gardens and garage, cloakroom, two receptions, fitted kitchen & bathroom.

Ramsgate



£415,000

Three receptions, fitted kitchen, utility and cloakroom with four bedrooms, one with en suite and family bathroom.

Whitstable



£695,000

Well proportioned detached home with double garage and driveway. kitchen and lounge. Gas fired central heating.

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Bairstow eves

Ashford 01233 624315

ashford.kent@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

Ashford



£94,950

Purpose built second floor flat. Lounge, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom & communal garden. Vacant possession.

Ashford



£129,995

Terrace house. Two bed, bathroom, kitchen & lounge/diner. Rear gardens & garage. Chain free, vacant possession.

Ashford



Offers in excess of £150,000

Improved end of terrace chalet house in a private location close to local amenities.

Ashford



£164,995

Three Bedroom End of Terrace House. Lounge, Kitchen/Diner and Bathroom. Front and Rear Gardens. CHAIN FREE.

Ashford



£179,995

Family home with three bedrooms in requested area. Front and rear gardens plus garage.

Ashford



£199,995

Spacious Victorian semi detached home. Within walking distance to Town Centre. Good sized garden.

Ashford



Asking Price £204,950

3 bed link detached, vacant possession. Lounge, dining room, kitchen utility, cloak/shower room & garage.

Ashford



£210,000

Three bed semi detached home. En-suite to master, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, cloakroom, garden, garage.

Ashford



£240,000

Three bed detached home rear garden, garage and private driveway for several vehicles. No forward chain.

Ashford



£245,000

Four bed semi detached playroom, lounge, dining room, shower room, kitchen, utility, laundry room, bathroom.

www.bairstoweves.co.uk www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk

Three-storey family home

A SMART, detached house with a stunning kitchen is on the market for £550,000.

Your Move is selling this detached, new-build in Bearsted, near Maidstone.

Unusually, this well-proportioned family accommodation is over three floors.

Downstairs there is a utility room along with shower room/toilet, and family room with access to rear garden.

Also on the ground floor is an entrance hall, cloakroom/toilet, lounge, dining room, study and kitchen/breakfast room.

Upstairs are four bedrooms, one with en-suite shower room and family bathroom.

The master suite has a dressing room, en-suite shower room and stairs up to the master bedroom.

The property has a double garage with store-room under it, plus there is a gas-fired central heating system.

Helping with worry-free ownership is the remainder of an NHBC Certificate from October, 2008.

The garden is about 80ft long and there is double-gated rear access.

The agent said: "This is a unique family home with a great location and excellent build quality. The property is being offered for sale with no forward chain which will help the sale move quickly."

The house is in Willington Street, opposite Mote Park, with its various leisure facilities, and is in the vicinity of Bearsted village which has a comprehensive range of amenities.

Maidstone town centre is approximately two miles away.

For more information call the agent in Bearsted on 01622 738282.







Bairstow eves

Sittingbourne 01795 427661
sittingbourne@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

Sittingbourne



Offers in excess of £110,000

One bed apartment offering double glazing, central heating & secured intercom system. Communal garden.

Kemsley



£124,995

Immaculate condition throughout, two bedroom top floor flat with lounge/dining area and garden area.

Iwade



£124,995

Two bedroom ground floor apartment. Village location. En-suite shower room to master bedroom.

Sittingbourne



£149,995

Spacious end terraced house, over three floors. Lounge, bedroom with en suite shower room.

Sittingbourne



£159,995

well-presented end of terraced house. Cloakroom. Lounge opens to dining area and fitted kitchen.

Teynham



£164,995

Two bedroom cottage with loft room, garage, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory & two bathrooms. garden.

Kemsley



£179,995

Semi-detached three bedroom house. Replaced kitchen, lounge, dining room, en suite shower room plus bathroom.

Sittingbourne



£189,995

Four bedroom town house. En suite shower, cloakroom, lounge and dining room. Garage and rear garden.

Sittingbourne



£225,000

Three bedroom detached house. Downstairs cloakroom. Approx 23ft lounge/dining room. Garage.

Iwade



£229,995

Lovely bungalow with three bedrooms, two receptions, refitted kitchen & bathroom, conservatory, garage.

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Bairstow eves

Dover 01304 201806
Folkestone 01303 259211

dover@bairstoweves.co.uk
folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

Countrywide

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806







£240,000

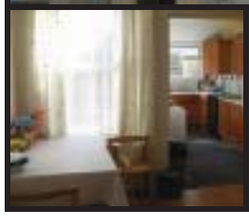
Situated in the sought after Castle Avenue and ideally positioned for Dover Town Centre and all educational and recreational facilities. Viewing is recommended of this substantial Victorian town house.

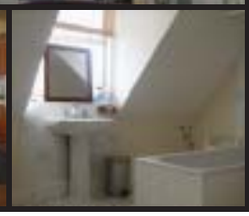
The accommodation is arranged over four floors and comprises: entrance hall, reception/bedroom 5, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor, lounge/dining room with original bi-folding doors and with original feature fire place with marble surrounds and bathroom on the upper ground floor with two bedrooms a piece on the remaining two floors. The property sits on an elevated plot, set back from the road with lawn and path to front door plus an enclosed rear garden.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211







OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £152,500

Offered for sale with no chain! Located within close proximity to local schools and shops, access to M20 and a short walk from Folkestone Central Mainline Train Station and its High Speed Link to London.

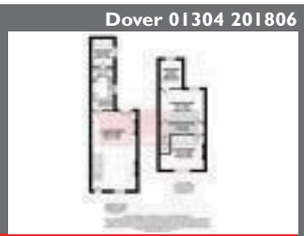
Arranged over three floors this family home benefits from lounge and kitchen/diner to the ground floor, with two bedrooms and WC to the first floor with a further bedroom and bathroom to the second floor. Further benefits include double glazing, gas central heating and a rear garden.

Internal viewing is highly recommended to appreciate in our opinion a spacious family home.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dover 01304 201806





21 MAGDALA ROAD, DOVER, KENT, CT17

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £85,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.



FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211





£199,995

Offered for sale with no chain! A recently refurbished four bedroom family home situated in the sought after Cheriton location. Situated within close proximity to local schools and shops, Folkestone West train station and access to M20 to London.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806





£119,995

This two bedroom terraced property is offered to the market chain free and is located in a central and popular location. The property has recently been decorated throughout and includes a modern kitchen area.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211





£139,950

Three bedroom terrace. Through lounge diner, kitchen and bathroom. The property has central heating and is part double glazed and there is a lawned rear garden.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £110,000

Three bedroom terrace house with two reception rooms, double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden. No chain.

DOVER

Dover 01304 201806



£169,950

NO CHAIN. Four bed maisonette. Lounge, kitchen and cloakroom to the ground floor, two bedrooms and bathroom on first floor and two further bedrooms on the second floor. D. glazing, gas central heating, rear garden.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £79,950

The property comprises an open plan living area with storage cupboard through to kitchen area. To the rear of the property is a modern bathroom with white suite and a double bedroom with French doors leading onto the private and enclosed courtyard.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



ASKING PRICE £79,995

Flat which comprises communal entrance with stairs to the top floor, hallway with built in storage cupboard, lounge leading to well fitted modern kitchen, bedroom and shower room/WC. Double glazing and central heating.

FOLKESTONE

Folkestone 01303 259211



£174,995

The apartment has two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, living room with adequate space for substantial dining room table and chairs. Secluded garden which is predominantly paved with seating areas, pathways and established planting and shrubs.

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Rainham 01634 377737	Gravesend 01474 888005	Sittingbourne 01795 410555
	greyfox.co.uk	Strood 01634 226800



Walderslade £229,995
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN / DINER
- 3 GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE / SPLIT LEVEL

REF: Walderslade_62610S



SittingbourneGuide Price £110,000 - £130,000
- 3 BEDROOM TERRACE HOME
- KITCHEN / DINER
- LOUNGE
- CUL DE SAC POSITON

REF: Rainham_60045S



Walderslade £97,000
- 1 BEDROOM STARTER HOME
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER

REF: Walderslade_63125S



NewingtonGuide Price £125,000 - £135,000
- 2 BEDROOM GEORGIAN COTTAGE
- COUNTRY STYLE KITCHEN
- LOUNGE WITH EXPOSED LOG BURNER
- NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_60003S



Chatham £125,000
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACED
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- LOUNGE / DINING AREA
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS

REF: Walderslade_62977S



Gillingham £137,500
- 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
- 1 RECEPTION ROOM
- BALCONY WITH VIEWS
- NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_60309S



Maidstone OIEO £130,000
- CONVERSION APARTMENT
- 2 BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- SASH WINDOWS

REF: Walderslade_61150S



SittingbourneGuide Price £220,000 - £240,000
- EXTENDED 4 BED DETACHED HOME
- LOUNGE / DINING ROOM
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- GARAGE AND DRIVE

REF: Rainham_60494S



Chatham £149,995
- 2 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- CLOAKROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- CUL-DE-SAC

REF: Walderslade_60990S



GillinghamGuide Price £150,000 - £160,000
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM END OF TERRACE HOME
- RIVERSIDE LOCATION
- LOUNGE DINER
- ALLOCATED PARKING

REF: Rainham_60839S



WaldersladeGuide Price £170,000 £175,000
- HOUSE TERRACED
- 3 BEDROOMS
- 2 RECEPTION ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM

REF: Walderslade_60143S



GillinghamGuide Price 140,000 - £150,000
- 3 BEDROOM END OF TERRACE HOME
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LOUNGE / DINER
- DOUBLE GARAGE

REF: Rainham_60337S



Walderslade £142,500
- 2 BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE
- LOUNGE / DINER
- 1ST FLOOR BATHROOM
- ALLOCATED PARKING / NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Walderslade_62139S



Downsview £280,000
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- REFITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
- 18FT CONSERVATORY
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS

REF: Walderslade_60091S



Wigmore Price Range £310,000 £330,000
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED
- REFITTED REAMS KITCHEN

REF: Rainham_62127S



Wigmore Guide Price £250,000 £275,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- APPROX 250FT GARDEN
- GARAGE & DRIVE / NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham_62427S



Chatham £155,000
- 4 BEDROOM TERRACED HOUSE
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- GARAGE

REF: Walderslade_60191S



Wigmore Guide Price 325,000 - £335,000
- 4 BEDROOM CHALET BUNGALOW
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY TO REAR

REF: Rainham_60153S



Chatham £162,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI
- LOUNGE/DINER
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- CUL-DE-SAC POSITION

REF: Walderslade_61006S



Rainham £270,000
- 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
- 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- SEMI RURAL LOCATION

REF: Rainham_60591S



Lordswood £179,995
- 3 BED EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED
- 2 RECEPTIONS
- POPULAR LOCATION
- DOUBLE GLAZING

REF: Walderslade_61926S



Hempstead £230,000
- 3 BED DETACHED HOME
- APPROX 23FT LOUNGE
- DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM
- CORNER PLOT

REF: Rainham_60149S



Rochester £248,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONSERVATORY

REF: Walderslade_63376S



Chatham £189,995
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOME
- MODERN KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Walderslade_61202S



GillinghamPrice Range £205,000 - £225,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- APPROX 23FT LOUNGE
- EXTENDED
- APPROX 90 FT GARDEN

REF: Rainham_63703S



Rochester £195,000
- 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- 17FT LOUNGE
- MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
- 15FT CONSERVATORY

REF: Walderslade_62804S



Rainham OIEO £210,000
- 4 BEDROOM EXTENDED END TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- FURTHER RECEPTION ROOM
- KITCHEN DINER

REF: Rainham_60293S



Rochester Guide Price 400,000 - £425,000
- DETACHED 4 BEDROOM HOME
- 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
- HEATED SWIMMING POOL
- CONSERVATORY

REF: Walderslade_59920S



Hempstead OIEO £154,995
- 2 BEDROOM END TERRACE
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE DINER
- DOUBLE BEDROOMS

REF: Rainham_61882S



Spendiff £485,000
- 4 BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE / RURAL LOCATION

REF: Walderslade_59912S

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Ramsgate | £450,000 - £500,000
- In Need of Complete Refurbishment & Development
- Potential for Off-road Parking
- Conversion into 7 Apartments with Planning Consent

RAMSGATE OFFICE | 01843 580314



Herne Bay | £450,000-£500,000
- Vacant Grade II Listed 5 Bedroom Residence
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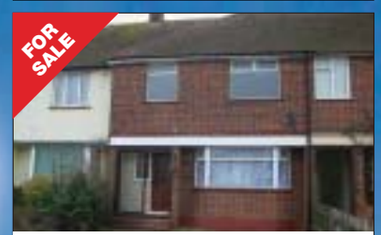
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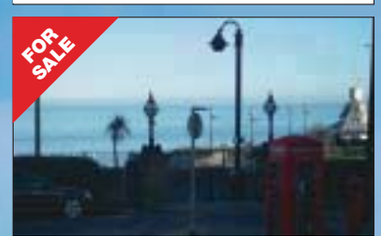
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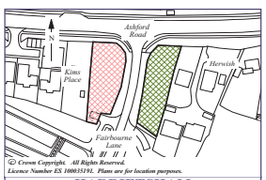
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Other Departures

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Nordic Cities	MP	8	15 April 2011	£549	£799
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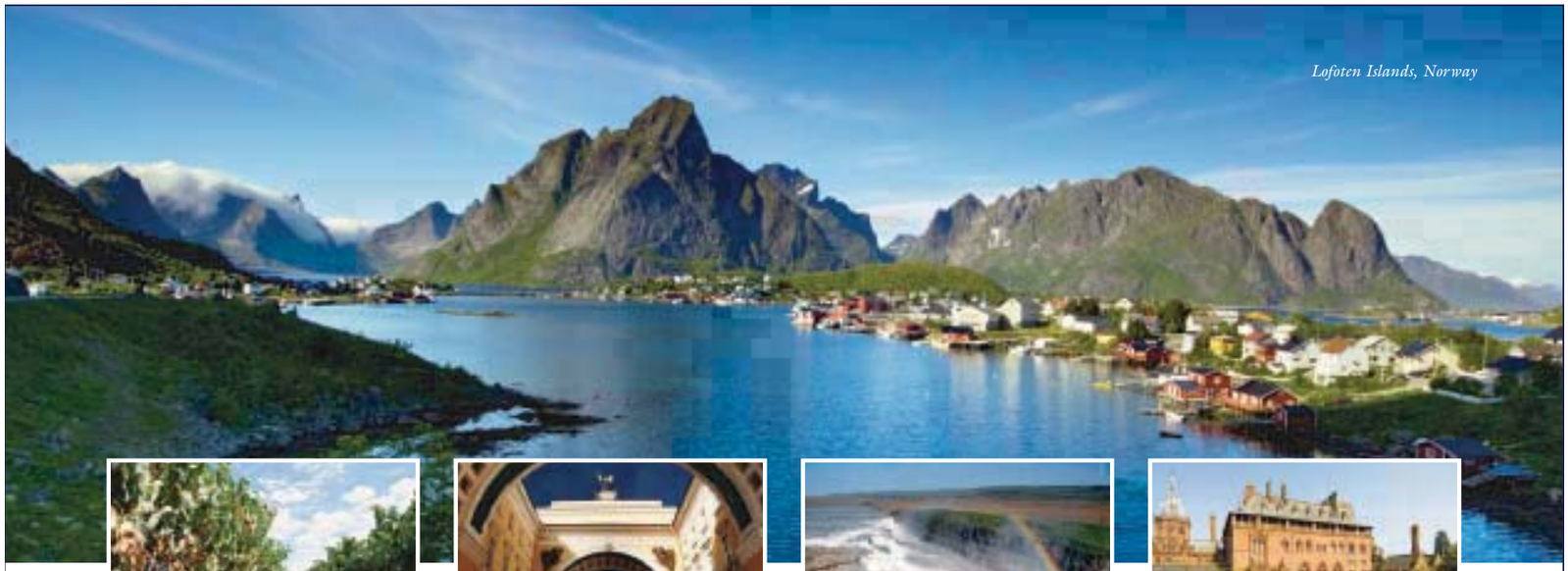
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June 14	THE NORTH CAPE Scenic fjords, midnight sun	16	Dover, Ålesund, Harstad, Honningsvåg, Alta, Leknes, Florø, Flåm, Bergen, Stavanger, Dover	£1,625*	£2,695*
June 29	A FRENCH VINTAGE Elegant cities, history and wine	15	Dover, Amsterdam, Honfleur, St Malo, La Rochelle, Bordeaux (overnight), Belle Île, Brest, Isles of Scilly, Dartmouth, St Peter Port, Dover	£1,695*	£2,695*
July 13	TREASURES OF THE BALTIC An afternoon, full day and morning in St Petersburg	16	Dover, Kiel Canal, Kiel, Rønne, Tallinn, St Petersburg (2 nights), Stockholm, Visby, Copenhagen, Dover	£1,820*	£2,795*
July 28	SAGAS OF ICE & FIRE Spectacular wildlife, scenic fjords, active volcanoes	16	Dover, Kirkwall, Lerwick, close cruise Heimaey, Reykjavik, Grundarfjordur, Isafjordur, Akureyri, Torshavn, Leith, Dover	£1,725*	£2,695*
Aug 12	HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS Breathtaking natural scenery, seaside towns, misty mountains	15	Dover, Sark, Glengarriff, Killybegs, Rothesay, Oban, Tobermory, cruise the Inner Hebrides, Kirkwall, Invergordon, Leith, Dover	£1,495*	£2,595*

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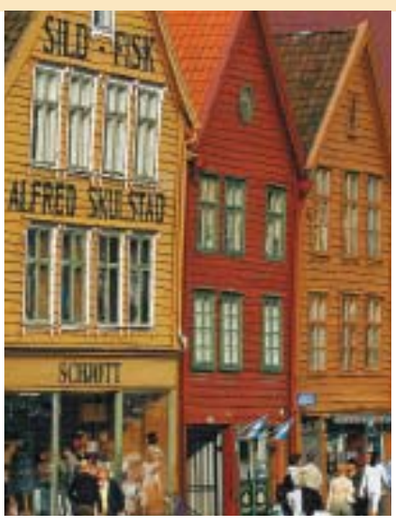
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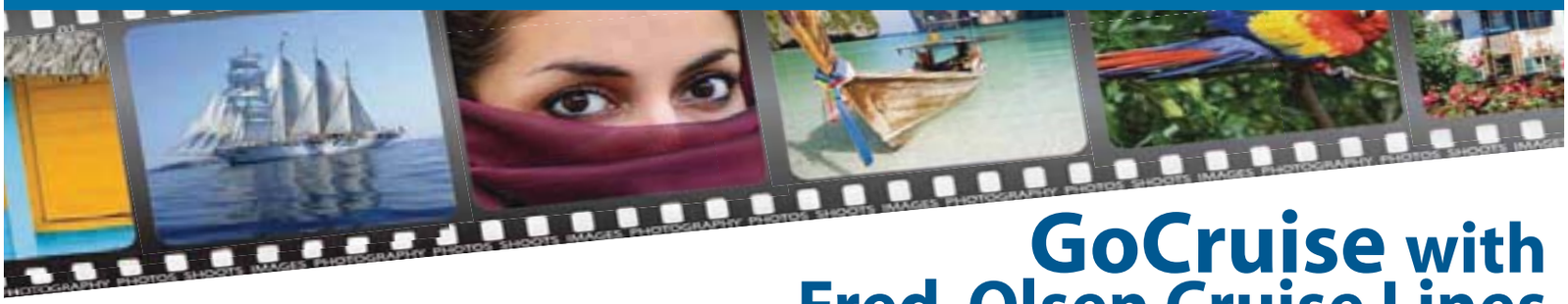
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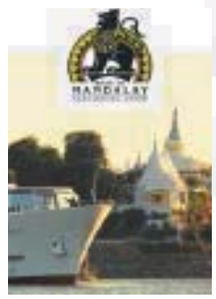
The River Seine & Paris, visiting Rouen and Honfleur - *27 July 2010*

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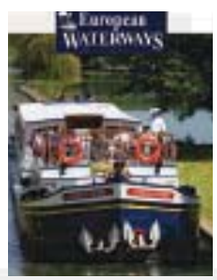


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YOUR HOLIDAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 Lyon
Fly from London to Lyon and transfer to your ship. After boarding take free time to explore the city's Old Town area. Dine aboard and depart early this evening.

DAY 2 Tournus & Beaune
Explore Tournus. Visit Beaune, wine capital of Burgundy and enjoy a wine tasting in one of its famous wine cellars.

DAY 3 Mâcon
After breakfast explore Mâcon, in the Burgundy region. Tour the Beaujolais and Mâconnais wine regions and return to your ship for a late lunch on board and scenic cruising.

DAY 4 Viviers & Saint Remèze
Arrive in Viviers after lunch. Tour the beautiful Ardèche region on the Rhône River and stop in Saint Remèze for a visit to the Lavender Museum. Dine aboard and then take a guided evening stroll through Viviers.

DAY 5 Arles
This morning enjoy a walking tour of Arles. Return aboard for lunch followed by afternoon free time or an optional excursion to Les Baux de Provence. Dine aboard and cruise to Avignon.

DAY 6 Avignon
Set out on a guided walk of Avignon. Stop at the picturesque Pont D'Avignon and walk to the Place de l'Horloge. Afternoon optional tours to Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Pont du Gard are available. Lunch and dinner served aboard.

DAY 7 Scenic Cruising
Cruise through the lovely Provencal countryside. Sail past towns, villages or relax on the sun deck. Sample the famous cuisine of Southern France during lunch and dinner.

DAY 8 Lyon
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FREE: Chatham Historic Dockyard and Wingham Wildlife Park are among the attractions

method will be used for the allocation of tickets next year, Visit Kent aims to avoid such problems in the future.

"It's still a bit early in our evaluation. With extra attractions coming on board, whatever system we use has to support the level of interest we have."

Now that all the free tickets have been handed out, thousands of people will be enjoying a fantastic day out at heritage sites, vineyards, castles, nature reserves, art centres and theatres across Kent. Those with a sporting disposition will be having fun at Thanet Indoor Bowls in Margate; Ramsgate Sport Centre; Lullingstone Park Golf Course; and Princes Park Stadium in Dartford.

Others will be on track for a great day out with the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway; Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway; or the Kent and East Sussex Railway. People with a penchant for messing about on rivers will be in heaven with the Kingswear Castle Paddle Steamer; the Canterbury Historic River Tours; and the Dover Bus and Boat Tours.

Anyone who likes the sound of a free day out should keep their eyes open for the ticket launch next year, which takes place a few weeks before the event.

"After the winter we've had, which has been pretty difficult, there's a feeling that people have felt rather trapped indoors by the rain and the cold," Mrs Matthews-Marsh said. "But spring is just around the corner and Kent is a great place to explore."

• ***To find out more about places to see and things to do in the county, see www.visitkent.co.uk.***

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FRANCE may be just a stone's throw from Kent, but it's even closer now for visitors to Maidstone.

The French bistro, Petite Maison, opened its doors in the centre of the county town at the end of 2009, and has quickly established itself as a quiet, classy and cosy eatery.

Our party of three: my husband Glen, our friend Lesley and I, had booked a table on a Friday evening, which is normally very busy in Maidstone. It was interesting to see that, although many tables were occupied, diners were nicely spread out in a labyrinth of rooms, ensuring we never felt too close to neighbouring diners.

The menu offers typically French dishes and has fixed prices so there's no confusion when it comes to splitting the bill – whatever is ordered in each course is the same price: entrees, £5.25; plats, £15.95; desserts et fromages, £4.95.

Our first-course choices were classic French onion soup with gruyere croutons, gratin of scallops and mushroom in a white wine sauce, and double-baked goat's cheese soufflé.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY **JULIE MADDOCKS**

Glen's soup was hot, wholesome and incredibly tasty with a hint of brandy, which was obvious as soon as it was brought to the table.

My scallops were tender and full of flavour, although the mushrooms did rather dominate the dish and there perhaps could have been more fish. Lesley's goat's cheese soufflé was light and fluffy, although not just full of air as it was also packed with flavour.

For our main courses we ordered confit of duck leg in a Toulouse sausage cassoulet, classic French stew with diced beef braised in wine with root vegetables, and a grilled 8oz rib-eye steak served with a peppercorn sauce.

The duck was tender, and although it didn't initially seem initially an obvious choice to accompany it, the sausage cassoulet was perfect and the combination worked well.

My beef stew was an equal winner; the meat had clearly been cooked slowly in the wine which highlighted the flavour, and the root vegetables added a fresh taste to the dish.

Lesley had ordered the rib-eye steak – an unusual choice for her, but she'd thought it would be a good indicator as to the standard of the restaurant.

Her initiative was spot on, and her chosen dish could not have been better. The meat was incredibly tender, perfectly cooked and with the accompanying sauce and frites almost had us convinced that we were in Marseille, not Maidstone.

To finish, Glen and I shared a cheese plate whilst Lesley plumped for the selection of sorbets. Both dishes were ample for two to dip into and the ideal end to our meals.

We never felt hurried through the evening, but at the same time, didn't have to wait too long between courses to be served.

With the set price for the courses and sensible cost for drinks (a litre carafe of house white is £12), Petite Maison won't break the bank, but thanks to the good quality ingredients and classic decor, it doesn't leaving you feeling like you took the cheap option.

Apparently Petite Maison was the dream of two sisters, who after spending various holidays on the Continent, decided to open the restaurant in their home town.

There's no doubt that they've carefully researched which cuisine to serve the discerning Kent customer, and it seems they've successfully achieved what they set out to do; bringing to Maidstone a little taste of France.

Bon appetit.

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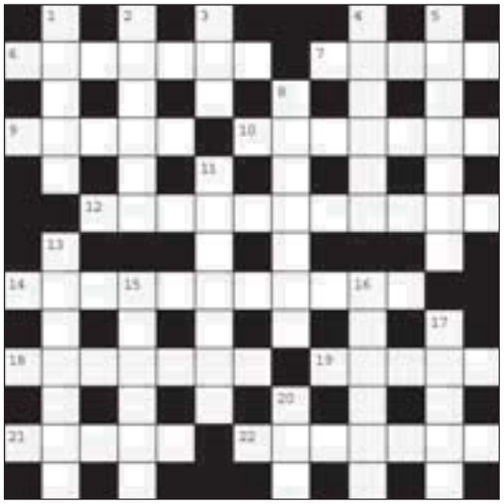
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CROSSWORD No 379

Name.....

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CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

6. As nosey as a dog with debts (7)
7. Nobleman gives no backing to prohibition (5)
9. Wild animals after 20 ancestors (5)
10. Boast about relations slowing the vehicle down (7)
12. The majority have a bigger role to play (7,4)
14. Don't lose contact, but make sure the ball stays out of play (4,2,5)
18. Marched in different order and became enchanted (7)
19 & 3 Down. Be dissipated when Simon isn't at home (5,3)
21. A point of view to fish for (5)
22. Have a discussion about one kind of tree (7)

Down

1. See 20 Down.
2. Looking into it gives cause for reflection (6)
3. See 19 Across.
4. Give support to footballer who is on his feet again (4,2)
5. Land of noblemen? (7)
8. Liberty taken to defer changing till doctor gets up (7)
11. Artist has rope to hold the boat (7)
13. The name given to marsh-gas (7)
15. Not altogether in keeping with one's role? (6)
16. Direct form of loan (6)
17. It measures, in maritime terms (5)
20 & 1 Down. How composers acquire great wealth? (3-5)

SCRIBBLE HERE

QUICK CLUES

Across

6. Seclusion (7)
7. Vestibule (5)
9. Pretend (5)
10. Peaceful (7)
12. Do research (11)
14. Filming (11)
18. Obsolete (7)
19. Corner (5)
21. Condition (5)
22. Merit (7)

Down

1. Flat (5)
2. Beginning (6)
3. Manner (3)
4. Dull (6)
5. Preclude (7)
8. Incomplete (7)
11. Condescended (7)
13. Economical (7)
15. Reliable (6)
16. Impede (6)
17. Bondman (5)
20. Seat (3)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS 378: Across: 1 Embankment; 7 Under; 8 Tighten; 10 Redolent; 11 View; 13 Ensure; 15 League; 17 Dais; 18 Parental; 21 Yard-arm; 22 Basin; 23 Spare parts. Down: 1 Ended; 2 Burglary; 3 Noting; 4 Magi; 5 Nothing; 6 Quarter day; 9 New Zealand; 12 Remember; 14 Stirrup; 16 Warm up; 19 Tasks; 20 Fair. **QUICK SOLUTIONS 378:** Across: 6 Retreat; 7 Lobby; 9 Feign; 10 Pacific; 12 Investigate; 14 Photography; 18 Disused; 19 Angle; 21 State; 22 Deserve. Down: 1 Level; 2 Origin; 3 Way; 4 Boring; 5 Obviate; 8 Partial; 11 Deigned; 13 Thrifty; 15 Trusty; 16 Hinder; 17 Slave; 20 Pew.

• The winner of the last crossword (no 378) is Tony Snitter, Hildenborough





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Over 21s Only We've got together with Warner Leisure Hotels - famed for quality accommodation, good food and live entertainment - to offer a selection of money-saving deals at some of Warner's prime properties. All deals include 3 or 4 nights accommodation in an ambassador room or standard chalet*, breakfast and dinner each day and live cabaret-style entertainment each evening. Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double-bedded room/chalet*. Single supplement £10pp.



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Littlecote House	March 1	4	£279	£229
Berkshire	March 8	4	£279	£229



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Sinah Warren	March 1	4	£239	£185
Hayling Island	March 15	4	£244	£199
	March 22	4	£249	£215



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Thoresby Hall	March 1	4	£289	£239
Nottinghamshire	March 8	4	£289	£239



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Corton*	March 5	3	£159	£129
Suffolk	March 8	4	£164	£139
chalet	March 19	3	£159	£129
accommodation	March 22	4	£169	£139



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Gunton Hall*	March 8	4	£184	£159
Suffolk	March 15	4	£184	£155
chalet accommodation	March 22	4	£189	£159



Hotel	Date	Nights	Broc Price	Our Price
Lakeside*	March 1	4	-	£209
FREE BAR from 12noon to 11pm each day (not departure day)				
Hayling Island	March 8	4	£174	£140
chalet accommodation	March 12	3	£169	£139

Mamma Mia Christmas Party at Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Over 50s Only Friday, November 12 to 15, 2010 • Tour **MM11-KOS**



PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 6pm to 11pm every day (not departure day) for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Full Entertainment programme:** Screening of Mamma Mia the Movie, Abba Tribute Band playing live, Fireworks Display
- **Meals:** 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing an en-suite Ambassador room with TV, tea & coffee tray - upgrades available
- **Leisure facilities:** Indoor pool, sauna
- **Travel:** Car ferry included (min 2 people per car)

3 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £259pp CAR FERRY INCLUDED

Carry on New Year Party at Warner Sinah Warren

FREE BAR **Over 40s Only** Friday, January 7 to 10, 2011 • Tour **WS1-KOS**



PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday and noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Full Entertainment & activities programme**
- **Meals:** 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing an en-suite Ambassador room - upgrades available

3 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £229pp

Party & Dance Break at Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

FREE BAR **Over 40s Only** Friday, January 14 to 17, 2011 • Tour **WB1-KOS**



You cannot book these deals direct with Warner Leisure Hotels

PRICE INCLUDES:
- **Free Bar** from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday and noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee
- **Meals:** 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- **Full Entertainment & dancing programme:** Daily dance sesssions for beginners & improvers; top dancers in cabaret
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights sharing an en-suite Ambassador room - upgrades available
- **Travel:** Car ferry included (min 2 people per car)

3 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £259pp CAR FERRY INCLUDED

Britannia Hotels Deals

With Meals, Entertainment and Free Bar

3 NIGHTS ONLY £119pp

March 5 to 8, 2010 • Tour GB3-1-KOS
March 19 to 22, 2010 • Tour GB3-2-KOS



Burstin Hotel, Folkestone

- ***Free Bar*** *- 3 hours every evening - House drinks*
- ***Entertainment*** *- every evening*
- ***Accommodation*** *- 3 nights sharing an en-suite room with TV, tea & coffee tray*
- ***Meals*** *- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts*

4 NIGHTS ONLY £139pp

March 1 to 5, 2010 • Tour BB3-KOS



Britannia Hotel, Bournemouth

- ***Free Bar*** *- 1 hour every evening - House drinks*
- ***Entertainment*** *- every evening*
- ***Accommodation*** *- 3 nights sharing an en-suite room with TV, tea & coffee tray*
- ***Meals*** *- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts*

You cannot book these deals direct with Britannia Hotels

Jersey Free Bar Break

at the Mayfair Hotel, St Helier - over 40s only





INCLUDED: **Free Bar** from 7pm to 11pm every night – includes selected draught beers, spirits, wine & mixers • 3 nights sharing a twin or double bedded room at the Mayfair Hotel • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Return foot passenger ferry travel with Condor Ferries - March 26: depart Weymouth 08.00 – arrive Jersey 11.25 - March 29: depart Jersey 20.00 – arrive Weymouth 23.30

Friday, March 26 to 29, 2010 Quote **JM3-KOS**

3 NIGHTS ONLY £239pp

OPTIONS: Take your car with 2 to 4 passengers for just £79 per car - price based on a car up to 4.5m in length. Free car parking at the hotel subject to availability • Single room supplement £35pp in total

You cannot book this deal direct with the Mayfair Hotel

For more information and bookings call 01895 83 33 33 quoting the Tour Code

Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: sales@gnholidays.com

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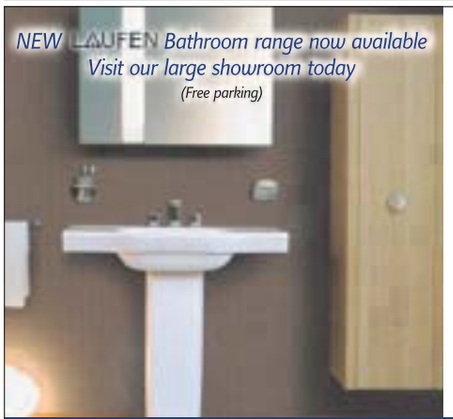
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Closing date: 26 March 2010. • Interview date: 9 April 2010 in Ashford.

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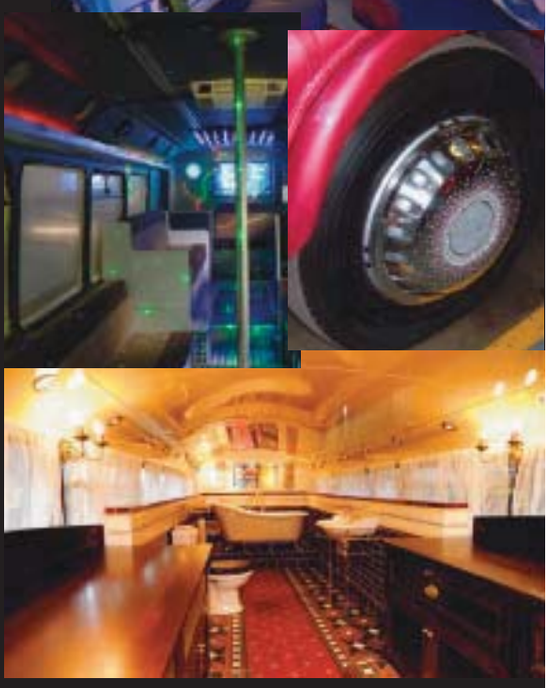
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- Upholstery and trimming
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> *Ben Turner – recently qualified coach builder.*

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Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berllaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd,

Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate,

Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN.

Email: donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Mercedes-Benz

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Contact Details:
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Ynez Coton, Associate Director,
KOS Media Ltd.,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent. TN25 6SR
Or e-mail **ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk**

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It's real people we are after... people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a genuine rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over.

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The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS375/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 9 April 2010.

saga.co.uk

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

SAGA
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nacro
changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

TRAINER FOR OUR ALTERATIVE CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

£17,834p.a Nacro Pay Scale (14-19)

We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and the Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (PART TIME 16HRS) (MATERNITY COVER)

£17,834p.a (pro- rata)

This Role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and an ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information.
Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels both verbally and in writing.
You would be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

The above positions are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Closing date for both vacancies is 23rd March 2010.

VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Young Persons' Substance Misuse Worker 'Changes' Dual Diagnosis Project

£21,519 – £27,849 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
BASED IN GRAVESEND, COVERS DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND AREAS.
FIXED TERM UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. KCA Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service provides specialist drug and alcohol interventions for young people aged 10 – 18, their parents/carers and other agencies.

Already established in East Kent, this project is expanding into West Kent supporting young offenders who present with both substance misuse and mental health concerns. The project will be delivered in collaboration with the local Youth Offending Team and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

We require an experienced practitioner to offer intensive packages of community support to young people and their families/carers. The emphasis is on multi-agency intervention and delivering creative care packages which meet identified needs. You must have significant experience of working with young people with complex needs including substance misuse issues. Relevant professional training is essential.

Should you wish to discuss this role informally please contact Sarah Mills on 01795 590635.

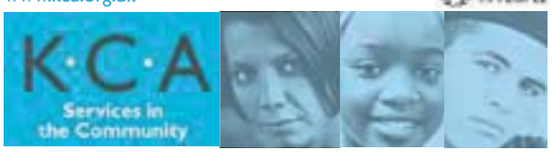
Previous applicants need not apply.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 637.

Closing date: 6 April 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



To advertise in this section
01303 817040

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TEACHERS AND COVER SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

MAIDSTONE, ASHFORD, MEDWAY TOWNS, THANET & DARTFORD AREAS

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To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
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or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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Agency

St. Lawrence College
JUNIOR SCHOOL, RAMSGATE, KENT CT11 7AF
Co-ed. IAPS Day & Boarding School: 190 pupils aged 3-11

Required as soon as possible, part-time (0.2)
EYFS/KS1 TEACHER

A suitably qualified teacher to join our dedicated Lower School team to provide cover for members of the senior leadership team, one day a week, or the equivalent

Required for September 2010, full-time resident
BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER

A suitably experienced, energetic and warm-hearted person to support the Housemaster in caring for our Junior/Middle School boarders (8-13), taking particular responsibility for the Juniors (8-11), in exceptional, purpose-built accommodation in Kirby House. Comfortable, self-contained flat provided all year round

For further details on both posts, and an application form, phone 01843 572912 or email hjs@slcuk.com
Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 April

St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment

The smart way to find your next job
JobsforKent.co.uk

Hugh Christie

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
FULL TIME
COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE

A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and supportive PE dept. of well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports.
Application forms are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk)
or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240.
Closing date 31st March 2010.

Saint George's
Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS
TLR1a (£12,114) or L8 – L12
(negotiable based on experience)

We wish to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner to lead, develop and promote excellence in teaching and learning in Maths.

Maths is taught to A Level and 53% of students achieved grades A*-C in Maths in 2009. We are fully staffed with specialist mathematicians.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 24 March 2010

HSG

Hillview School For Girls
"a good and improving school with some outstanding features" *(ofsted 2008)*
Brionne Gardens, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2HE
Tel :01732 352793 Fax: 01732 368718
e-mail:admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk

Required for September 2010

Teacher of Personal Development Learning
(PSHE/Cz) MPS

Due to the outstanding success of this expanding department we are seeking to appoint a talented and committed teacher to

- Teach across the full age and attainment range from KS3 to post-16
- Contribute to the further development of active citizenship projects across the school
- Have an understanding of emotional literacy and the personal development learning agenda
- Work as part of a dynamic team to raise the aspirations of our students

"Social, cultural and moral education has an important and valued impact on students' development" (Ofsted 2008)

We are a progressive non–selective school in the heart of Kent, with excellent resources and a recently completed £5m build.
Visits to the school are very welcome.

Please telephone or e-mail the school for an application pack.
Closing date for applications: 26th March 2010

To advertise in this section ✆ 01303 817040

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Advisor Ref: P0262
Salary: £24,792 - £27,499 pro rata
14.8 hours per week
Medway

We are looking for an outstanding individual to deliver and develop Careers Education Information, Advice and Guidance within the College. The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, with the ability to provide accurate advice to learners with a diverse range of abilities and backgrounds. A qualification at Level 4 or above is essential such as The Qualification in Careers Guidance.

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism Ref: M0187
Salary: £26,283 - £28,963 per annum
Maternity Cover
Medway

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an excellent candidate to deliver and participate in the development of the Travel and Tourism programmes. Responsibilities will include establishing and developing travel and tourism industry contacts to enhance the students learning experience. A recognised Travel and Tourism qualification is essential. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation Ref: P0357
Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of Installation programmes. The ideal candidates must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The candidate must have; An Advanced Craft Certificate, including Mandatory Awards in Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one. IT skills and the ability to work within a team are essential.

Closing date: Friday 26 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investors in People



THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status
Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons

Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405

Number on roll:
840

11- 16 Mixed
High School

Closing date:
22nd March

Interviews:
week beginning
29th March

Are you a UK graduate in Science or Business?
Are you interested in a career in teaching?

We are delighted to be offering two GTP placements, one in Science and one in Business, under the GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME at Thamesview School for a September 2010 start. The placement is run in conjunction with Christ Church College University, Canterbury and leads to full Qualified Teacher Status on successful completion of the training programme.

Thamesview is an improving school with specialist Status for Business and Enterprise. We are at an exciting time in the school's development: we have just produced the best GCSE results at 67% A*-C, which have increased year on year for the last six years, we have acquired specialist school's status in Business & Enterprise, and have a £1.2 million Vocational Centre on site which opened in 2006.

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so our newly designed school will open in July 2010. E-learning is an exciting area of development for us, as we will have over £1m spent on future technology ICT throughout our new school. All teachers already have a laptop, classrooms equipped with SMART whiteboards and we have a generous staff development (CPD) commitment. We actively encourage leadership and progression opportunities for staff. With all these initiatives we are entering a new era of teaching and learning and are a really motivated school.

The school is very conveniently located – 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

If you think this sounds like an exciting opportunity, please telephone: 01474 566552 ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

CV's without an application form will not be accepted.

Successful candidates will be invited for interview at the school and our recommendations will then be passed to Christ Church College University, Canterbury. The University will then select candidates for further interview.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

WALMER SCIENCE COLLEGE

Salisbury Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7QJ
Telephone : 01304 375212 Fax : 01304 380766
e-mail : admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk
Headteacher : Simon Heaton BSc (Hons), NPQH
MIXED 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL 800 ON ROLL

REQUIRED FOR 1st SEPTEMBER 2010
TEACHER OF ENGLISH (MPS)

The post would be suitable for either NQTs or more experienced teachers. A comprehensive induction programme will be offered whatever your status.

The successful applicant will:-
- be a creative teacher with the ability to motivate students of all abilities;
- be enthusiastic and energetic;
- have a commitment to raising standards;
- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

Walmer Science College is a good school with outstanding features (Ofsted 2007).

Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school

Closing date : 9am on Tuesday, 23rd March 2010

We value diversity in our workforce

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Kent County Council

Saint George's

Church of England School
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

Caretaker

(Full time post – 37 hours per week)
Salary Kent Scheme Band 4, points 11-14 (£15,984 to £16,793 p.a.)

General maintenance and caretaking duties, working alternate shift patterns:
A: 05:00 to 14:00 (3/5 days) and 05:00 to 13:30 (2/5 days)
B: 13:00 to 22:00 (3/5 days), 13:30 to 22:00 (1/5 days)
and 13:30 to 19:30 (1/5 days).

Good team working skills and the ability to interact positively with students are essential.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 24 March 2010

Science LANGUAGE COLLEGE

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science and Language College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (Maternity Cover)

Required from June 2010, Main Professional Grade

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed English teacher to cover maternity leave from 7th June to December 2010. The job provides an excellent opportunity for an ambitious teacher who is able to demonstrate a positive and creative approach in the classroom and contribute to the ongoing success of the English Faculty. The ideal candidate will be able to teach English to Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, although it may be possible to adjust the timetable to suit individual strengths and experiences. The ability to teach Media Studies A' Level would be an advantage, although not essential.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs.
Completed forms should be returned by **Monday 29th March 2010** to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher.

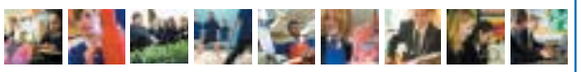
The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

www.ggsg.org.uk

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD
T: 01227 710392 | W: www.spiresacademy.com

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

Spires ACADEMY



Literacy/ LRC Coordinator

We are seeking to appoint a forward thinking and creative Literacy/LRC Coordinator to work in our vibrant school community. The successful candidate will lead the development of Literacy across the Academy, as well as having the opportunity to implement their own vision for the Learning Resource Centre within the supportive environment of our Specialism for Business & Enterprise.

They will have proven experience of working with children in an educational setting, as well as of planning, monitoring and evaluating initiatives. Experience of working within a Learning Resource Centre or Library would be an advantage, but is not essential.

For further details and an application pack please contact Marion Wigington on 01227 710392 or at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Closing date: Noon, Friday 26th March 2010

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Administrator
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Associated Logistics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email associated.logistics@live.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Experienced Floor manager/ess
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07966 295070
Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

WAITING STAFF
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Beacon (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 524252
Email beaconhotel@btopenworld.com

WAIT STAFF
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Market Research Interviewers
Kent
Salary: £57.60-£63.72
To apply/more information: Kantar Operations
Quoting Job Ref: 6793SC
Tel: 020 8433 4491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners
Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
No Bank Holidays, Weekends or Evenings Home Cleaning Company requires FULL TIME STAFF Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm Drivers only 01732 359500
To apply/more information: Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 359500
Email merrymaidsales@btconnect.com

Domestic Trades

HOT TUB SERVICE TECHNICIAN
Maidstone
Salary: £18K
Closing Date: 24 April 2010
HOT TUB SERVICE TECHNICIAN Clean Driving License (Minimum 8 years) Van and Tools Supplied Training Given some Electrical/Plumbing Knowledge required £18K plus commission Apply CV to: admin@spafix.co.uk No later than 24/4/10
To apply/more information: Spafix UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email admin@spafix.co.uk

CARETAKER
Gravesend
Salary: £15,984 to £16,793 p.a
Closing Date: 24 March 2010
To apply/more information: St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Outreach Teacher
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Ethelbert Children's Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 823762
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Maths Teacher
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Ethelbert Children's Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 823762
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Primary Teacher
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Ethelbert Children's Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 823762
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Assistant Team Leader - Primary / Secondary Transition
Thanet
Salary: c.£40k
Closing Date: Friday 26th March
To apply/more information: Marlowe Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 598550
Email clare.smithkent@hays.com

Teacher of Public Services
Aylesford
Salary: Main Scale
Closing Date: 22/03/2010
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of English
Aylesford
Salary: Main Scale
Closing Date: 22/03/2010
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of Mathematics
Aylesford
Salary: Main Scale
Closing Date: 22/03/2010
To apply/more information: Jill McKenna Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (MPS)
Thanet
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday, 23rd March 2010
To apply/more information: Walmer Science College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 375212
Email admin@walmersciencecollege.co.uk

Lecturer in Electrical Installation
Medway
Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 26 March 2010
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0357
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism
Medway
Salary: £26,283 - £28,963 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 26 March 2010
MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas: Lecturer in Travel and Tourism Ref: M0187
Salary: £26,283 - £28,963 per annum Maternity Cover Medway An exciting opportunity has arisen for an excellent candidate to deliver and participate in the development of the Travel and Tourism programmes. Responsibilities will include establishing and developing travel and tourism industry contacts to enhance the students learning experience. A recognised Travel and Tourism qualification is essential. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Closing date: Friday 26 March 2010 MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: M0187
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Advisor
Medway
Salary: £24,792 - £27,499 pro rata
Closing Date: Friday 26 March 2010
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0262
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME
Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 22nd March
To apply/more information: Thames View Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 566552 ext 208
Email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 31st March 2010
TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FULL TIME – COVERING MATERNITY LEAVE A Teacher of Girls PE is required to cover for Maternity Leave to teach in a successful and supportive PE dept. of well qualified staff. Hugh Christie is a popular 11-18 school on a brand new state of the art campus in Tonbridge. This post offers an ideal opportunity for an NQT or for an experienced teacher seeking development opportunities. A commitment to extra curricular activities + lunchtimes is required as is the ability to teach Key stage 3 & 4 and all sports. Further details of this post and an application form are available on our website (www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk) or contact Jenny Rutherford at jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk or tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240. Closing date 31st March 2010.
To apply/more information: Hugh Christie Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353544 extn. 240
Email jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

KEY SKILLS TRAINER
Medway
Salary: £17,734.00p.a (pro-rata)
Closing Date: 23rd March 2010
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of

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working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. KEY SKILLS TRAINER (PART TIME 16HRS) (MATERNITY COVER) £17,734.00p.a (pro-rata) This Role is to provide high quality Key Skills for Life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and an ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information. Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels both verbally and in writing. You would be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative. Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage. This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Closing date for both vacancies is 23rd March 2010. Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
To apply/more information: Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

TRAINER FOR OUR ALTERATIVE CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

Medway
Salary: £17,834p.a
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. TRAINER FOR OUR ALTERATIVE CURRICULUM PROGRAMME £17,834p.a Nacro Pay Scale (14-19) We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and the Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage. Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage. This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check. Closing date for both vacancies is 23rd March 2010. Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
To apply/more information: Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS

Medway
Salary: Expenses Paid
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years / adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. VOLUNTEERS We are looking for people who like to volunteer to support the learners in our Centres in various roles e.g. mentoring, support for Skills for Life, in particular reception type duties at our Pathways Centre. Travel and lunch expenses are paid. Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818305 for an application pack.
To apply/more information: Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

EYFS/KS1 TEACHER

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April St. Lawrence College JUNIOR SCHOOL, RAMSGATE, KENT CT11 7AF Co-ed. IAPS Day & Boarding School: 190 pupils aged 3-11 Required as soon as possible, part-time (0.2) EYFS/KS1 TEACHER A suitably qualified teacher to join our dedicated Lower School team to provide cover for members of the senior leadership team, one day a week, or the equivalent Required for September 2010, full-time resident BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER A suitably experienced, energetic and warmhearted person to support the Housemaster in caring for our Junior/Middle School boarders (8-13), taking particular responsibility for the Juniors (8-11), in exceptional, purpose-built accommodation in Kirby House. Comfortable, self-contained flat provided all year round For further details on both posts, and an application form, phone 01843 572912 or email hjs@slcuk.com Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 April St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 572912
Email hjs@slcuk.com

BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April St. Lawrence College JUNIOR SCHOOL, RAMSGATE, KENT CT11 7AF Co-ed. IAPS Day & Boarding School: 190 pupils aged 3-11 Required as soon as possible, part-time (0.2) EYFS/KS1 TEACHER A suitably qualified teacher to join our dedicated Lower School team to provide cover for members of the senior leadership team, one day a week, or the equivalent Required for September 2010, full-time resident BOARDING HOUSEMOTHER A suitably experienced, energetic and warmhearted person to support the Housemaster in caring for our Junior/Middle School boarders (8-13), taking particular responsibility for the Juniors (8-11), in exceptional, purpose-built accommodation in Kirby House. Comfortable, self-contained flat provided all year round For further details on both posts, and an application form, phone 01843 572912 or email hjs@slcuk.com Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 April St Lawrence College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff to share this commitment
To apply/more information: St Lawerence College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 572912
Email hjs@slcuk.com

Teacher of Personal Development Learning

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 Required for September 2009 Teacher of Personal Development Learning (PSHE/CZ) MPS Due to the outstanding success of this expanding department we are seeking to appoint a talented and committed teacher to • Teach across the full age and attainment range from KS3 to post-16 • Contribute to the further development of active citizenship projects across the school • Have an understanding of emotional literacy and the personal development learning agenda • Work as part of a dynamic team to raise the aspirations of our students "Social, cultural and moral education has an important and valued impact on students' development" (Ofsted 2008) We are a progressive non–selective school in the heart of Kent, with excellent resources and a recently completed £5m build. Visits to the school are very welcome. Please telephone or e-mail the school for an application pack. Closing date for applications: 26th March 2010 Hillview School For Girls " a good and improving school with some outstanding features" (Ofsted 2008) Brionne Gardens, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2HE Tel :01732 352793 Fax: 01732 368718 e-mail:admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information: Hillview School for Girls
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 352793
Email admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk

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01303 817040

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Electrically Biased Site Supervisor

Kent
Salary: TBA
Electrically Biased Site Supervisor required by a Nationally based Specialist Company working within the Medical Pre-Installation field. Negotiated Package. Computer experience essential. Must be willing to work away from home. E-mailed C.V. applications only to smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk NO AGENCIES NO TELEPHONE CALLS
To apply/more information: Avenue Building Company Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk

Continuous Improvement Facilitator

Hythe
Salary: TBA
We are a local manufacturer and have created a new position for a Continuous Improvement Facilitator to develop and implement improvement programmes. You will have a successful record in a Continuous Improvement role, knowledge of lean tools and techniques and be able to negotiate at all levels and drive changes through. In return we offer a competitive salary and benefits To apply send your CV to jolson@hvwooding.co.uk or telephone Jennie Olson on 01303 236538
To apply/more information: H V Wooding Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 236538
Email jolson@hvwooding.co.uk

Graduate, Trainees

Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement

Canterbury
Salary: Unsalaried but offers a training budget
Closing Date: Thursday 8th April 2010
This 11 months role is unsalaried but offers a training budget (3 days per week) Job Title: Volunteer Trainee Community Engagement Placement **Closing Date**: Thursday 8th April 2010 Interview Date: Tuesday 20th April 2010 Based at Mayton Oast, near Canterbury The role: an exciting opportunity to develop your skills and practical experience by assisting the Community Engagement Officer with the delivery of education and community activities at Blean Woodlands. Some weekend/evening work may be involved. You: will have a professional, mature approach and possess the ability to communicate effectively with the public. Enthusiasm for working with young people and adults in a variety of settings is essential, as is your interest in environmental issues. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent and Medway This post requires an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau. Contact details: To discuss this post please contact Paul Dorrington on 01622 662012 or Kathryn Barton 01227 719506. For an application pack please visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk or telephone Dot Hughes 01622 662012, email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk Kent Wildlife Trust has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community
To apply/more information: Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

PLAY GROUND INSPECTOR

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 PLAY GROUND INSPECTOR Serco Local Government, Canterbury A vacancy has arisen for an Experienced Play Ground Inspector. ? CRB check is required ? ROSPA qualification together with a full driving licence is essential ? 39 Hours per week ? 20 Days annual leave rising to 25 days after 5 years continuous service. Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form. Closing date for all completed applications will be: 26th March 2010 All applicants are welcome to apply regardless of age, disability, gender, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
To apply/more information: Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 81941
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Commercial Manager

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Commercial Manager An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liasing closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feed back. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme. Please apply in writing to Commercial, PO Box 462, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 1AW.
To apply/more information: Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Trainee Service Advisor x 2

Dartford
Salary: TBA
Sparshatts of Kent Ltd Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot. Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving license. Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berllaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd, Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN. Email: donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Service Advisor

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Sparshatts of Kent Ltd Mercedes-Benz Van & Truck Dealers Two positions have arisen for a Trainee Service Advisor at our Dartford depot and a Service Advisor at our Tunbridge Wells depot. Your role will be to guide our customers through the service process from initial booking to the return of their commercial vehicle. You will have excellent customer facing skills gained in a similar role, an excellent telephone manner, high standards of personal appearance, IT keyboard skills and a full clean driving license. Please apply in writing, including your curriculum vitae or by email to Donna Berllaque, Assistant to Service Managers, Sparshatts of Kent Ltd, Unit 10 Eurolink Industrial Estate, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RN. Email: donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk
To apply/more information: Sparshatts of Kent Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email donna.berllaque@mercedes.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Care Assistants

Thanet
Salary: £7.75 per hour
121 Care & Mobility Care Assistants Competitive Pay Rates. Up to 7.75 per hour. Experience Preferred but not essential. Own Transport Required. To Apply Please Tel: 01227 792249
To apply/more information: 121 Care & Mobility
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 792249
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Senior Practitioner

Ashford
Salary: £27,849 - £32,800
Closing Date: 26 March 2010 Senior Practitioner £27,849 - £32,800+ ESSENTIALCARUSERALLOWANCEOFUPTO£1,170PERANNUM FULL TIME • 37 HOURS PERWEEK BASED ASHFORD KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. You will be a member of the Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) team working across our stepped care services in Ashford. You will undertake a clinical caseload and line manage a designated number of staff, mentor new team members and assist in the provision of good, evidence based practice. The centre offers services between 8am and 8pm on week days, and on Saturday mornings. Therefore working hours will need to be flexible. You must be BACP, BABCP or UKCP accredited, highly experienced as a therapist with a Diploma in Counselling and trained to work in an area recognised by the NICE guidelines (couple counselling, IPT, CBT or psychodynamic models). You will also have good management skills, an enthusiastic approach to evidence based practice and a commitment to service development. Formore information please contact SusanWyles, ServiceManageron 07725 433267. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number: 645. Closing date: 26 March 2010. • Interview date: 9 April 2010 in Ashford.
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 645
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

SENIOR R.S.W.

Sevenoaks
Salary: £19,612 pa
A residential care home for older people in Sevenoaks, Kent seeks a SENIOR R.S.W. 37 hours per week on rota £19,612 pa plus enhancements for worked weekends and bank holidays Experience in medication rounds and supervising staff and shifts essential as is reliability and flexibility. NVQ 3 preferred but training available. Generous annual leave, pension and health cash-back scheme. Free parking on site, some meals on duty. Please ring Jay Drake on 01732 458762, or Rockdale House on 01732 454763 This post will be subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure and ISA check.
To apply/more information: Rockdale House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 458762
Email enquiries@rockdale.org.uk

Home Carers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Thursday 1 April 2010
Home Carers Audley Care is seeking individuals to deliver high quality care and domestic support to our clients living in their own homes in and around theMaidstone area. Successful candidates will have their own transport, ideally have experience working in a care environment as well as having, or be willing to work towards, an NVQ2 qualification. In return we offer good hourly rates, flexible working hours, comprehensive training and an exciting career opportunity to join this rapidly expanding business. To apply or for further information please contact Jane Wilson on 01622 633101 or email janew@audleycare.co.uk We have various shifts to fulfil (inc. days, evenings, weekends and bank holidays) therefore when applying please state your preferred days and hours of work. Closing date: Thursday 1 April 2010 An enhanced CRB check will be undertaken for successful applicants. www.audleycare.co.uk
To apply/more information: Audley Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 633101
Email janew@audleycare.co.uk

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Supported Living Support Worker

Herne Bay
Salary: £16,040-£16,896 pro rata
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 it will never be just another job Supported Living Support Worker Ref: 687/E £16,040-£16,896 pro rata 1x FT 1 x PT 22 hrs Herne Bay & Canterbury mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society. We are looking for 2 enthusiastic, self motivated people to join our supported living team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging, and rewarding apply now. Closing date 26th March 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments
To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard@terrablu.co.uk

Supported Living Support Worker

Canterbury
Salary: £16,040-£16,896 pro rata
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 it will never be just another job Supported Living Support Worker Ref: 687/E £16,040-£16,896 pro rata 1x FT 1 x PT 22 hrs Herne Bay & Canterbury mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society. We are looking for 2 enthusiastic, self motivated people to join our supported living team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging, and rewarding apply now. Closing date 26th March 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments
To apply/more information: MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 687/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Supported Living Support Worker

Canterbury
Salary: £16,040-£16,896 pro rata
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 it will never be just another job Supported Living Support Worker Ref: 687/E £16,040-£16,896 pro rata 1x FT 1 x PT 22 hrs Herne Bay & Canterbury mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society. We are looking for 2 enthusiastic, self motivated people to join our supported living team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging, and rewarding apply now. Closing date 26th March 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments
To apply/more information: MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 687/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

Tonbridge
Salary: £8.25 to £10.00 per hour
WANT A NEW CAREER WITH FULL-TIME HOURS? COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED IN TONBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS & TUNBRIDGE WELLS o Self Employed basis only o £8.25 to £10.00 per hour o Full-time starting at 7am o You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own o Must have own car and phone o Uniform provided o Full Training programme available Experience preferred but not essential. All applicants subject to Enhanced CRB Check CALL ELAINE/JULIA ON 01892 529429 FOR AN INTERVIEW www.terrablu.co.uk An Investor in People Employer
To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 529429
Email emma.foard@terrablu.co.uk

Sessional Support Workers

Ashford
Salary: £8.30 -£9.46 per hour
Closing Date: 1st April 2010
Sessional Support Workers £8.30 -£9.46 per hour Based in Ashford Contract from April 2010 to March 2011 (subject to funding) Thanet Children's Participation Project works with children and young people to enable them to engage in positive activities, contributing to their communities and making their voices and opinions heard. We're looking to expand our team of fun, creative and approachable Disability Support Workers. As a Sessional Worker your focus will be to provide support and positive

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play and leisure experiences for children and young people with disabilities, in a scheme that runs on 2 weekend days per month, 15 days during the school summer holidays, and an additional 2.5 days during the October half term. You'll need to have experience of working with children and young people with disabilities, knowledge and understanding of the issues facing disabled children and young people, and the ability to engage with young people using participative methods in an informal setting. Reliability and punctuality are a critical element of this role. You'll be educated to GCSE standard (or equivalent). Hours for this post will be variable and appointment is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure. For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Donna Ramm on 01843 596659. As well as a strong commitment to your development, we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pension, childcare vouchers and flexible working. To apply, please visit www.playyourpart.co.uk or call us on 0121 362 8633 quoting reference number S01718/KS. Closing date: 1st April 2010. All recruitment documents are available in alternative formats.

Please note that CVs will not be accepted. The Children's Society is a leading children's charity committed to making childhood better. We work with children across the country, providing the right support at the right time. We commissioned The Good Childhood®Inquiry; the UK's first independent national inquiry into childhood. Its aims were to renew society's understanding of modern childhood and to inform, improve and inspire all our relationships with children. Charity Registration No. 221124 We strive to be an equal opportunities employer

To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
Quoting Job Ref: S01718/KS
Tel: 0121 362 8633
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

GRASS CUTTER

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 GRASS CUTTER Serco Local Government, Canterbury A vacancy has arisen for an experienced Grass Cutter. ? Fixed term contract ? A full driving licence is essential ? 39 Hours per week ? 20 Days annual leave Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form. Closing date for all completed applications will be: 26th March 2010 All applicants are welcome to apply regardless of age, disability, gender, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
To apply/more information:
Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

LANDSCAPE OPERATIVE

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 26th March 2010 LANDSCAPE OPERATIVE Serco Local Government, Canterbury A vacancy has arisen for an experienced Landscape Operative. ? Fixed term contract ? A full driving licence is essential ? 39 Hours per week ? 20 Days annual leave Telephone 01227 819419 for an application form. Closing date for all completed applications will be: 26th March 2010 All applicants are welcome to apply regardless of age, disability, gender, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic origin, religion, or sexual orientation.
To apply/more information:
Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Person

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Sales Person for retail warehouse, Tunbridge Wells 5 day week will include some weekends UK driving licence essential Call 01892 516979 or email CV to associated.logistics@live.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Associated Logistics
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 516979
Email associated.logistics@live.co.uk

BE YOUR OWN BOSS

Ashford
Salary: TBA
GO FOR IT! BE YOUR OWN BOSS • Average earnings £60k+ • Existing customer base • Repeat order business • Trade's favourite products • We train you to succeed • No experience necessary • Investment required • Excellent existing profit EXCELLENT TERRITORY AVAILABLE IN & AROUND ASHFORD INCLUDING: FOLKESTONE, WALTHAM & LOOSE. t: 01543 482926 e: franchising@autosmart.co.uk www.startautosmart.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Autosmart International Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01543 482926
Email franchising@autosmart.co.uk

Sales Position

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Quex Park Estates Quex Foods Representative to cover the Kent area is urgently required for our exciting new food venture. Sales experience in the food industry is preferred but not essential. Enthusiasm, tenacity, confidence, & self motivation will be essential in this role to Service our existing clients & develop new retail outlets. *Flexible working hours to suit excellent candidate *Remuneration by negotiation For Immediate start Apply with CV via email to: quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com quoting ref: QF010 To discuss please phone Angie Curwen on 07890 431999
To apply/more information:
Quex Museum Enterprises Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: QF010
Tel: 07890 431999
Email quexparkenquiries@btconnect.com

Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) **Salary:** Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/evening/summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) We need enthusiastic people with a flair for communication, to recruit new members, usually in your local area, using a soft approach. Sales / fundraising experience desirable. Please apply as soon as possible Interview date to be notified. For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community
To apply/more information:
Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters

Kent
Salary: TBA
Head of Door-to-Door Membership Recruiters (fixed term contract) Generous additional commission paid ` Generous commission with good earning potential or guaranteed minimum wage. Hours: Flexible to suit - from 10hrs per week. Ideal for flexible weekend/evening/summer work. Location: specified area/s of Kent (own transport desirable but public transport can be used.) In addition to the above skills you will lead and motivate your Door-to-Door team. You will have administrative, organisational and leadership skills. Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife charity for Kent & Medway supported by over 30,000 members. Interviews will be held on 31st March 2010 For further information please contact Dot Hughes on 01622 662012; email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk or visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk KWT has a positive approach to equality and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community
To apply/more information:
Kent Wildlife Trust
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 662012
Email dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Barn, 1 Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **Philippe Sorak**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor
Invicta House
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14
TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR488A (PART) AYLESFORD

On 15 March 2010 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council confirmed the above order.

The effect of the order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath running from NGR TQ 7263 5654 (point A on the order map) in a generally north westerly direction for approximately 106 metres to NGR TQ 7255 5661 (point B on the order map) to a new length of footpath numbered MR488A with a width of 2 metres commencing at the aforementioned point A and runs in a generally northerly direction for approximately 61 metres to NGR TQ 7263 5660 (point C on the order map).

A copy of the confirmed order and the order map may be seen at The Council Offices at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ and at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge, TN9 1BG, free of charge between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Copies of the order and map may be purchased.

This order comes into force on 15 March 2010 but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
Tonbridge and Malling
Borough Council

The Insolvency Act 1986
CONCRETE MIXING KENT LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number 06748134

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Ruth Ellen Duncan of Kent House, Romney Place, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6LH was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 16 March 2010.
Ruth Ellen Duncan, Liquidator

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00525/HOUSE 1 Chapel Row Maidstone Road, Brenchley
– Retrospective – Replacement of existing outbuildings with a building comprising shed, summerhouse and outer decking area (CA)

10/00543/TELN5 Little Dunks Farm Cuckoo Lane, Brenchley
– Telecommunication Notification – Erection of 9m wood pole (7.6m above ground, 1.4m below ground) (LB)

10/00474/LBC The Corner House Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
– Listed Building Consent – General redecoration of ground floor elevations, alteration of canopies above the Stone Street window, replacement windows and shop signage to the High Street elevation (LB)

10/00777/HOUSE 4 The Mews Clarence Row, Culverden
– Construction of an enclosed porch to replace existing open canopy (CA)

10/00737/LBC Whites Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
– Listed Building Consent – Addition of interior secondary glazing windows (LB)

10/00778/FUL Marlborough House School High Street, Hawkhurst
– Construction of a hard parking area 6 x 60m beside playing field (LB)

10/00731/FUL Castlemaine Oast House Maidstone Road, Horsmonden
– Retrospective – 2 x two-bay cart lodge garages to be located in a very similar position to the previously approved garage block (LB)

10/00628/LBC Coggers Hall School Hill, Lamberhurst
– Listed Building Consent – Installation of five conservation roof lights and installation of three solar panels on attic roof (LB)

10/00696/HOUSE Bayham L'Eglise Clayhill Road, Lamberhurst
– Extension and alterations to existing building (LB)

10/00701/LBC Bayham L'Eglise Clayhill Road, Lamberhurst
– Listed Building Consent – Extension and alterations to existing building (LB)

10/00781/LBC Walsynghams Town Hill, Lamberhurst
– Listed Building Consent: Underpinning of gable wall of existing grade II listed building following contamination spill (LB)

10/00047/LBC 1 Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
– Listed Building Consent – Installation of gas central heating and flues (LB)

10/00800/HOUSE 16 Berkeley Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
– Enlargement of existing dormer window and bedroom by extension of existing roof ridge (CA)

10/00565/HOUSE Beth Holme Church Road, Southborough North
– Replacement of existing timber fence and gate with new wall, gates and railings to front and one side elevation (CA) (LB)

10/00739/LBC Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst
– Listed Building Consent – Replacement of existing roof with new roof to match exisitng (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1RS

Dated: 20 March 2010

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00473/FL – The Nursery Taylors Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling Kent – Mrs P Valler is applying for replacement agricultural building comprising a workshop and office facilities; replacement of glasshouse with two polytunnels; parking and revised access. Reason: CA

TM/09/01498/FL – Woodgate Farm Woodgate Road Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5LH – Mr Andrew Fry is applying for erection of two chalet style detached houses, each with a double garage (to replace two storage buildings) with foul sewer connection to existing package treatment system. Reason: DEPART

TM/10/00552/FL – 242 Tonbridge Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5NY – Mr David And Mrs Helen O'Kell are applying for single storey side extension. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00553/FL – Hermitage Farm Hermitage Lane Maidstone Kent ME16 9NT – Mr And Mrs P Gallagher are applying for amendment to design of extension designed under planning permission TM06/01838/FL. Reason: GPI HH

TM/10/00513/LB – Wateringbury Place 50 Canon Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PQ – Wateringbury Place Holdings are applying for Listed Building Application: Repair and refurbishment of a 19th century greenhouse and associated outbuildings. Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00505/FL – 1 Copt Hall Cottages Ismays Road Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9BB – Mr John And Mrs Kathy Rugg are applying for construction of detached garage and boundary wall. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
GPI	Application is of general Public Interest
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 11 April 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

21 March 2010

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

CHURCH ROAD, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Tenterden for its entire length on or after 25 March 2010 for an estimated period of two days or until such works are complete.

There will be no alternative route.

This order will come into force on Thursday 25 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

FOOTPATH AND CYCLE PATH, HENWOOD, ASHFORD (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of water mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting pedestrians and cyclists on a Footpath and Cycle Path at Henwood, Ashford, on or after 5 April 2010 for an estimated period of 21 weeks or until the works are complete.

The location is between the western end of the western spur of Henwood to the junction with National Cycle Route 18. The alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists will be via Henwood and the National Cycle Route 18 which runs parallel to Henwood.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

SEAFIELD ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seafield Road, Whitstable, on or after 22 March 2010 for an estimated period of 4 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed at its east junction with Herne Bay Road. The alternative route will be via the other junction, at the Tankerton Road end of Southfield Road.

CANTERBURY ROAD, HERNE BAY, (EDDINGTON INTERCHANGE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of overnight carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council has made an Order in respect of Canterbury Road, Herne Bay (Eddington Interchange), on or after 22 March 2010 for an estimated period of up to 8 weekday nights or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to prohibit traffic on the slip roads defined in the Schedule to this Order below. These will be closed at their junctions between A299 Thanet Way and A291 Canterbury Road, as advised by signs and barriers on site.

A299 Thanet Way - Eastbound off slip:
Diversion for Herne Bay northbound on Margate Road, Mickleburgh Hill and Canterbury Road
Diversion for Herne and Canterbury south on Margate Road, Hunters Forstall Road, Mill Lane and School Lane

A299 Thanet Way - Westbound on slip:
Diversion via Canterbury Road, A2990 Old Thanet Way, Long Reach roundabout and Clapham Hill

A299 Thanet Way - Westbound off slip:
Diversion for Canterbury and Herne via Margate Road, Hunters Forstall Road, Mill Lane and Scholl Lane

Diversion for Herne Bay via Margate Road, Mickleburgh Hill and Canterbury Road

Mill Lane:
Closed to westbound traffic at its junction with Thanet Way
Diversion via Mill Lane, School Lane, Herne Street and Canterbury Road

It is planned that the closures of each of these slip roads will be on the evenings of 22 and 23 March 2010, between the hours of 7.00 pm and 5.00 am.

There may need to be other closures of some of these slip roads within the period of the Order, as advised by signs and barriers on site.

VALKYRIE AVENUE, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Valkyrie Avenue, Whitstable on or after 6 April 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The works are planned to be carried out in 2 phases, as shown below.

Phase 1:	**Between the junctions of Joy Lane and Shearwater Avenue**
Dates:	6 April 2010 for up to 2 days
Alternative route:	for through traffic will be via Sandpiper Road, Columbia Avenue and Joy Lane.

Phase 2:	**Between the junctions of Shearwater Avenue and Grimthorpe Avenue**
Dates:	8 April 2010 for up to 3 weekdays
Alternative route:	For through traffic via Grimthorpe Avenue, Borstal Hill and Joy Lane

Note that access to Shearwater Avenue will be maintained as signposted on site. During Phase 1 this will be via Grimthorpe Avenue and during Phase 2 via Joy Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to;

1. introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) places on the following roads or lengths of road :-

Salisbury Road	Watling Street
Common Lane, Wilmington	Little Brook, Manor Way
Main Road	Pembroke Place
Devon Road	Watermill Way
Knockhall Chase, Swanscombe	The Crescent, Swanscombe

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 12 April 2010.

GREENHITHE STATION TO INGRESS PARK (BUS LANES AND RESERVED ROUTES) ORDER 2010 INGRESS PARK AVENUE TO GREENHITHE STATION TO INGRESS PARK BUS WAY (PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURN)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order will introduce a bus lane for local buses only on the following length of road:

1. Between the roundabout at the junction of B255 Station Road/A206 Crossways Boulevard and the mini roundabout 205 metres east of that junction	In both directions	1. On the southern most carriageway from a point 109 metres east of the junction with B255 Station Road to the mini roundabout.
	In a westerly direction	2. On the southern most lane from a point 109 metres east of the junction with B255 Station Road to a point 35 metres east of that junction.
2. From a point on Ingress Park Avenue 25 metres west of the junction with Calcroft Avenue to the mini roundabout 205 metres east of Station Road.	In both directions	For the entire length

The second named Order will prohibit any vehicle from making a left turn from Ingress Park Avenue to Greenhithe Station to Ingress Park Bus Way, except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 12 April 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Dartford and Gravesham

CYCLE TRACKS – SWANSCOMBE TO NORTHFLEET ORDER 2010

In connection with the provision of the Swanscombe to Northfleet Cycle Track, the Kent County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by Section 3 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 has made an Order to convert footpaths DS17 into a shared use and segregated use as specified in the Schedule to this Order. The Order was made on 19 March 2010.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Order will be that the lengths of footpath to which the Order relates will become highways which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The footpaths designated as cycle tracks by this Order are as follows:

Footpath No	District	Description
DS17 (segregated)	Dartford	From the junction with footpath NU2 at Northfleet boundary to the anti-motorcycle barriers at the west side of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link bridge (approximately 308 metres, shared use with a width of approximately 3 metres)
DS17 (shared use)	Dartford	From anti-motorcycle barriers at the west side of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link bridge to the junction with Stanhope Road, Swanscombe. (approximately 398 metres, segregated use with a width of approximately 3 metres)

A copy of the made Cycle Tracks Order, together with copies of relevant map may be examined at the at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times

If you have any observations, representations or objections to the made Order you should send details in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Dartford & Gravesham), at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford, Kent or by email to consultations@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 19 April 2010.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

A256 DOVER ROAD, EYTHORNE AND TILMANSTONE (EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council has made the above named Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces experimentally no right turns from the A256 Dover Road at Eythorne and Tilmanstone.

1. No person causing any vehicle proceeding in A256 Dover Road shall cause that vehicle to turn right into Kennel Hill, Eythorne.
2. No person causing any vehicle proceeding in A256 Dover Road shall cause that vehicle to turn right into Dover Road, Tilmanstone.
3. Nothing in Article 2 of this Order shall prevent any person from causing or permitting a vehicle to turn right if it is:-
 (i) any vehicle on an occasion when it is being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes, if the observance of that provision would be likely to hinder the use of that vehicle for the purpose for which it is being used on that occasion;
 (ii) a scheduled bus.

The Order was made on 19 March 2010 and will come into force on 24 March 2010

The Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of this experimental Order should continue in force indefinitely.

Any alterations to this Order which will render it less restrictive may be authorised by the County Transport & Development Manager, without the requirement to re-advertise the Order, under section 10(2) of the said Act, and after consultation with the chief officer of police.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, may be examined at the offices of the Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD and at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover.

Within the period of 6 months of the coming into force of the Experimental Traffic Order any person may object to this Order prior to making the Order permanent. If you wish to object to the Experimental Order you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Kent Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to t&d.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 6 September 2010.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Dover from as described in the schedule to this order on or after 09 April 2010 for an estimated period of as described in the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown below.

Road:	**Southwall Road, Deal**
Extent:	between Middle Deal Road and Church Lane
Dates:	on or after 09 April 2010 for one day only
Diversion:	Middle Deal Road, Orchard Avenue and Church Lane

Road:	**Monegham Road, Deal**
Extent:	between Sholden Ban and Ellen's Hill
Dates:	on or after 07 June 2010 for one day only
Diversion:	A258 London Road, B2056 Manor Road, Mill Hill, Cross Road, Ellen's Road, Ellen's Hill

Road:	**Northbourne Road, Deal**
Extent:	between Monegham Rd and Cherry Lane – in conection with works along Monegham Rd
Dates:	on or after 07 June 2010
Diversion:	Cherry Lane and Monegham Road

This order will come into force on Friday 9 April 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow for the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

WEST CRESCENT ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on West Crescent Road, Gravesend from side of 10 Wilfred Street to rear of 10 Bernard Street.

The Order will become effective on 5th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Harmer Street, Milton Road, Berkley Crescent and Wilfred Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of water supplies.

CRETE HALL ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Crete Hall Road, Northfleet between The Old Sun Public House and The Red Lion Public House.

The Order will become effective on 5th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Rosherville Way, Themes Way, Clifton Marine Parade and The Shore.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Major Demolition Works.

GARRICK STREET GYRATORY SYSTEM, GRAVESEND (TRAFFIC REGULATION) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), (3), 3(2) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect on the following streets or lengths of street:-

1. New Road a) from the junction with Windmill Street to the junction with Stone Street from east to west.
 b) from the junction with Garrick Street to the junction with Stone Street from west to east.
2. will enable vehicles to gain access or loading in New Road from the junction with Garrick Street to Stone Street.

This Order is necessary to deter traffic "rat running" through the town centre outside of the core pedestrianised area in the town.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 12 April 2010.

VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM (ONE WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), (3), 3(2) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will introduce one way traffic on the following streets or lengths of street:-

Windmill Street:	from the junction with Albert Place (which is subject to a prohibition of driving Order) to the junction with Woodville Place from north to south.
Woodville Place:	from the junction with Windmill Street to the junction with A277 Wrotham Road from east to west.
Wrotham Road:	from the junction with Woodville Place to the junction with Albert Place (which is subject to a prohibition of driving Order)from south to north

NB This new Order will reverse the flow of traffic in Windmill Street from the junction of Lord Street to the junction with Albert Place (which is subject to a prohibition of driving Order).

This Order is necessary to introduce a new one way system to link access to the Civic Centre with the town to improve safety to pedestrians.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 12 April 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

HENIKER LANE & BOYTON COURT ROAD, SUTTON VALENCE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic at the junctions of Heniker Lane and Boyton Court Road on or after Tuesday 23rd March 2010 for a period of up to 5 working days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Boyton Court Road, East Sutton Road, High Street, A274 Headcorn Road, A274 Maidstone Road, East Sutton Road, Heniker Lane and vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

TINKERPOT LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tinkerpot Lane, West Kingsdown opposite golf course.

The Order will become effective on 5th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day between 09:30 – 15:30 Hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Knatts Valley Road, Knatts Lane and Tinkerpot Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT Openreach Works.

MAIN ROAD/GORSE HILL, WEST KINDSDOWN BRANDS HATCH RACE CIRCUIT (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Main Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 5th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on various dates as noted in schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Restriction: 30mph Speed Restriction
Extent: From A20 Main Road junction A225 Dartford Road to Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station

Restriction: Cycle Lane Closure
Extent 1: A20 Main Road between Brands Hatch Race Circuit to junction A225 Eynsford Road (northbound)
Extent 2: A20 Main Road between Brands Hatch Race Circuit to Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station (southbound)

Restriction: No Right Turn
Extent 1: Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 Main Road
Extent 2: Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 Main Road
Extent 3: Into Scratcherd Lane northbound from A20 Main Road
Dates: 5th April, 18th April, 2nd May, 31st May, 11th July, 1st August, 8th August, 5th September, 10th October and 31st October 2010.

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate events at Brands Hatch Circuit.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

VARIOUS ROADS, SHEPWAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Shepway from as described in the schedule to this order on 23 March 2010 for an estimated period of six days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown below .

Road: Cherry Garden Avenue, Folkestone
Extent: from its junction with Cherry Garden Lane to its junction with Cheriton Road
Dates: 23 – 30 March 2010 (excluding the weekend)
Diversion: A259 Churchill Avenue, Park Farm Road, A259 Radnor Park Road, A2034 Cheriton Road

Road: Beachborough Road
Extent: from its junction with Shorncliffe Road to its junction with Cheriton Road.
Dates: 23 – 30 March 2010 (excluding the weekend)
Diversion: Shorncliffe Road, Risborough Way, Risborough Lane, Cheriton Road

This order will come into force on Tuesday 23 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

REDBROOKS WAY, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of upgrading the wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Redbrooks Way, Hythe on or after 5 April 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junction with Old London Road and house number 14. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Old London Road, Sunny Bank and Redbrooks Way.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Thanet from as described in the schedule to this order on or after 22 March 2010 for an estimated period of as described in the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown below.

Road: Rosetower Court, St Peters, Broadstairs
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Yew Tree Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Reculver Avenue, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Minnis Road, St Mildred's Avenue and Sea View Road OR Minnis Road, Grenham Bay Avenue and Sea View Road – in both directions

Road: Grenham Bay Avenue, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junction access from Hereward Avenue, Harold Road and Alfred Road
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Minnis Road, Reculver Road and Sea View Road OR Minnis Road, The Parade and Sea View Avenue – in both directions

Road: Rutland Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Lincoln Gardens, Sussex Gardens and Kent Gardens – in both directions

Road: Lincoln Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junction access from Sussex Gardens
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Devon Gardens, Kent Gardens and Rutland Gardens – in both directions

Road: Sussex Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Kent Gardens, Devon Gardens and Lincoln Gardens OR Kent Gardens, Rutland Gardens and Lincoln Gardens – in both directions

Road: Devon Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junction access from Lincoln Gardens and Dorset Gardens
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Essex Gardens, Lancaster Garden and Kent Gardens – in both directions

Road: Dorset Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Devon Gardens, Essex Gardens and Lancaster Gardens OR Lancaster Gardens, Kent Gardens and Devon Gardens – in both directions

Road: Sewell Close, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Phillips Road, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure prohibits access to Sewell Close and Barrows Close
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Norrie Road, Birchington, Thanet
Extent: Phillips Road to Mellanby Close; Closure prohibits access to Sewell Close, Barrows Close, Phillips Road and Mellanby Close
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Stone Barn Avenue, Birchington
Extent: Park Lane to Powell Cotton Drive; Closure prohibits access to Laming Road and Powell Cotton Drive. Closure also affects junctions with Linington Road and Farrar Road
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Park Lane, Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive, Parkway and Cornford Road – in both directions

Road: Linington Road, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Cornford Road, Farrar Road and Stone Barn Avenue – in both directions

Road: Farrar Road, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Cornford Road, Linington Road and Stone Barn Avenue – in both directions

Road: Cornford Road, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junction with Farrar Road
Dates: on or after 22 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Stone Barn Avenue, Park Lane, Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive and Parkway – in both directions

Road: Lancaster Gardens, Birchington,
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junction access from Dorset Gardens and Hereford Gardens
Dates: on or after 25 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Kent Gardens, Devon Gardens and Essex Gardens – in both directions

Road: Hereford Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 25 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Lancaster Garden and Kent Gardens – in both directions

Road: St Mildred's Avenue, Birchington
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 29 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Minnis Road, Reculver Avenue and Sea View Road – in both directions

Road: Kent Gardens, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure affects junctions with Rutland Gardens, Sussex Gardens, Devon Gardens, Lancaster Gardens, Hereford Gardens, Surrey Gardens and Prospect Road. Closure also prohibits access to Oxney Close, Sheppey Close and Romney Close
Dates: on or after 29 March 2010 for one day only
Diversion: Station Road and Canterbury Road OR Devon Gardens, Essex Gardens and Canterbury Road – in both directions

Road: Parsonage Fields, Monkton
Extent: Whole length including junction splays on Monkton Street
Dates: on or after 06 April 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Old Green Road, St Peters, Broadstairs
Extent: Whole length; Closure also prohibits access to The Oaks, Cedar Close & Churchfields
Dates: on or after 06 April 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: Highfield Gardens, Margate
Extent: Whole length
Dates: on or after 06 April 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

Road: St James Terrace, Birchington
Extent: Whole length; Closure also prohibits access to St David's Close
Dates: on or after 10 June 2010 for one day only
Diversion: No alternative

This order will come into force on Monday 22 March 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

WAVERLEY ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Waverley Road, Margate, on or after 5 April 2010 for an estimated period of 5 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junctions of Canterbury Road and George V Avenue. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road and George V Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

PILGRIMS WAY, WROTHAM (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pilgrims Way between Farthingfield Cottage and Farthingale on or after Tuesday 6th April 2010 for a period of up to 4 days or until such works are completed. The one way order is temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Old London Road and Pilgrims Way.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for a new gas supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881360.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

SLIP MILL ROAD, HAWKHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010 THE KENT COUNTY (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) (SLIP MILL ROAD, HAWKHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The first named Order will have the following effect:-

Slip Mill Road: Prohibition of driving from the junction with A229 Hawkhurst Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south easterly direction.

The second named Order will :-

Prohibit any vehicle from making a right turn from Slip Mill Road into A229 Hawkhurst Road except for emergency vehicles; or any vehicle with the permission of a police officer in uniform.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Town Hall, Civic Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close. Aylesford.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transportation & Development Manager (Tunbridge Wells), Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michael's Close, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7EZ or by email to khstdsevtwell@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 19 April 2010.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008–June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008–June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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New 'F' grade is all set to boost Lexus IS appeal

By **STEVE LOADER**

WHAT'S in a letter? Lots when you sell cars into the status conscious compact executive sector.

BMW employs 'M' to denote sportier 3-Series models, Audi uses 'RS' and 'S' to hype the A4 line-up, and wannabe Japanese rival Lexus has adopted 'F' to flag up the IS range.

Toyota's luxury arm stunned rivals with the IS-F V8 model, but this is a rare 'halo car'. What the IS stable really needed is the new F-Sport grade with exclusive alloys, grille, bootlid spoiler and cabin highlights to really boost IS sales and image.

Clearly inspired by the ultra high-performance IS-F, the new package is available on the IS 250 petrol (£29,365) and 220d diesel (£28,290) models, and sits between the established SE-I intermediate and SE-L luxury grades.

As the sharper performer, the IS 250 F-Sport also gets lowered suspension in addition to the cosmetics.

Both versions gain the same sporty interior though with aluminium sports pedals and sports seats finished in a combination of leather and leather-like Alcantara with grey stitching.

They also receive some top-level SE-L spec including rain-sensing wipers, premium 13-speaker sound system, and memory settings for the powered front seats and door mirrors.

In addition to the new F-Sport versions, Lexus has also beefed up the appeal of entry grade IS SE models, with 10-spoke, 17-inch alloys as standard instead of the previous 16-inch rims, while all 2010 IS 250 models have improved fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. With manual transmission, this powertrain now claims a combined fuel economy figure of 29.1mpg against 28.8mpg previously.

Later this year, Lexus will also launch a baby brother to the IS and world first; the new Lexus CT 200h (right) becomes the first full hybrid vehicle to be launched in the premium compact segment.



The CT 200h was designed and developed with the UK and Europe in mind and is also the first five-door compact car from the Lexus brand. Early pictures don't exactly wow, but nobody has designed a greener car yet that people clamour to buy on style.

That's possibly because the CT 200h has a body designed for maximum aerodynamic efficiency and minimum wind noise, with the car's most distinctive feature being a rear roof overhang and wrap-around rear window, creating a seamless, integrated spoiler.

In spite of a compact exterior the CT 200h is claimed to offer one of the most spacious cabins in the VW Golf/Ford Focus size category.

Power comes from a 1.8-litre VVT-i petrol engine plus electric motor with selectable settings: Eco and Normal major on efficiency and comfort, Sport focuses on handling and performance, and EV (electric vehicle) allows for quiet running on the electric motor alone with zero fuel consumption and emissions for up to 1.2 miles.

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09 09 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES....£15495
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES....£7995
09 09 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR SILVER 7000 MILES....£12495
09 09 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 2000 MILES....£9995
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES....£13995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 2000 MILES....£10995
09 09 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DRAUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 3000 MILES....£12995
09 09 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 200 MILES....£10995
09 09 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS DENIM BLUE 4000 MILES....£9995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 3000M....£7995
09 09 NEW CORSA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR GREEN 6000 MILES....£10995
09 09 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES....£8495
09 09 KIA PICANTO 2 1-1 AUTO PAS AIR/C ORANGE 2000 MILES....£7495
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07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS BLUE MET 5000MILES....£10995
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06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES....£10495
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 38000 MILES....£8495

BMW

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY....£13995

FIAT

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES....£5995

FUSION & FIESTA

09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR AVALON BLUE 4000 MILES....£10995
07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES....£7995
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07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES....£8495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES....£6995
06 56 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 1000 MILES....£7495
05 55 FUSION 3 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 3000 MILES....£6995
04 04 FIESTA 1-4 LX AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 24000 MILES....£4495

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07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES....£8995
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07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DRAUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES....£8995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR TONIC BLUE 3000 MILES....£7995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES....£7995
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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES....£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES....£7495
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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES....£6995
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07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES....£7995
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06 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MAUVE 19000 MILES....£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5 DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES....£6995
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06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR MET BLUE 1900 MILES....£6995
06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR MET BLUE 20000 MILES....£6495
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07 07 SUZUKI 1-6 SX4 AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR MET BLUE 12000 MILES....£8495
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08 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 3000 MILES....£6495
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2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.2 16V WSR TOM TOM 3DR SAT NAV BODY KIT 16 ALLOYS CD A/C 50 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£10,995 A
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE 3DR 16 ALLOYS CD AIR CON ELEC PACK 4500 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£11,795 A
2008 08 RENAULTSPORT CLIO 197 17T BLACK ALLOYS CLIMATE CUP SPOILER 10955 MILES WHITE	£12,895 A

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2007 57 TWINGO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON REMOTE LOCKING 10729 MERCURY	£6,495 A
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIR CON ALLOYS C/LOCKING 15320 MILES IN SILVER	£7,295 C
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIRCON ALLOYS C/LOCKING 19275 MILES MET MERCURY GREY	£7,995 M
2008 08 TWINGO 1.2 TCE 100 GT 3DR 15 ALLOYS CLIMATE S/ROOF CD ELEC PACK 7315 MILES PEARL BLACK	£8,295 A
2009 09 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17T ALLOYS CUP PACK A/C CD BLUE TOOTH 3300 MILES PEARL BLACK	£11,995 A

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2006 06 MODUS 1.6 16V AUTO DYNAMIQUE 15 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 17910 MILES MERCURY	£6,695 A
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2006 56 MEGANE S'TOURER 1.9DCI 130 DYN AIR CON ALLOYS CLOCKING 37879 IN MET BLUE	£7,495 C
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2007 57 MEGANE 5DR 1.5DCI 85 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON CLOCKING 26000 MILES MET EXTREME BLUE	£8,495 M
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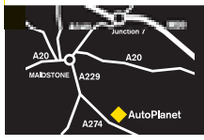
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



MiTo fitter from taking in the air

IT'S been on sale here for just a year or so, but Italy's Alfa Romeo has already tweaked its stylish answer to the BMW Mini.

Among several improvements, the MiTo sporting supermini now has a MultiAir powertrain option answering a conundrum solved by few carmakers: how to lower fuel consumption and emissions while boosting power.

The MiTo's answer is sophisticated metering of air in the combustion cycle, hence the labelling for the popular 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol engine series, costing from £15,165 in 135bhp form.

But Alfa has also delved into its heritage to revive the Cloverleaf label applied traditionally to its sparkiest performers. This is available with the higher output 170bhp MultiAir engine.

The £17,895 Cloverleaf (pictured) demonstrates the appeal of the MultiAir technology with a racy 0-62mph time of just 7.5 seconds, while still capable averaging nearly 50mpg.

Tucson replacement's broader appeal



AMBITIOUS Korean marque Hyundai has junked its chunky Tucson and the name in favour of a more broadly appealing model wearing a new numbering system.

Rather than being billed as an SUV (sports utility vehicle) like its predecessor, the new ix35 is classified as a versatile crossover, more in keeping with the highly successful Nissan Qashqai and Peugeot 3008. That means Hyundai is hunting hatchback and MPV buyers as well as the SUV fans stalked by the Tucson.

The ix35 feels far lighter on its feet than its predecessor and, at just £16,495, looks great value against a poverty spec Ford Focus hatchback, yet brings alloys, ESP (electric stability programme), air con, heated front and rear seats and door mirrors, and reverse parking sensors as standard, plus five years' roadside assistance and Hyundai's usual five-year/unlimited miles warranty.

Kia itches for you to make the switch



KIA has embarrassed most other car brands on the UK market by introducing a universal and unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

This is against the industry norm of three years/60,000 miles – only Korean sister brand Hyundai comes close with its five-year deal.

Furthermore, with the Government's Scrappage grant scheme rapidly coming to an end, most Kia dealers are offering a '7-Year Switch' deal with up to £2,000 off list price of a new Kia in part exchange for a car seven or more years old.

It includes a £1,500 discount off Kia's newest showroom arrival, the capacious Venga mini-MPV (pictured). I didn't much like the 1.4-litre petrol or diesel powertrains, but the car (from £11,495) is hugely practical and great value.

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The Government Scrappage Scheme is available until the Government funding is utilised or until 31/03/2010 (whichever is sooner). The Nissan British Built Trade in Scheme (NBBTS) is available until 31/03/2010. Trade in cars under the Government Scheme must have been registered on or before 29/02/2000 and under NBBTS between 01/03/2000 and 31/08/2002.The keeper of a trade in vehicle should have a UK address shown on the V5C and have been the registered keeper of the trade in vehicle for at least 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. Also a trade in vehicle must have a current MOT certificate at order date of the new vehicle and must be under 3.5 tonnes in weight. Under NBBTS there is no obligation to scrap any trade in vehicle and the new vehicle purchased must be a Nissan UK built vehicle (Micra, NOTE, QASHQAI and QASHQAI+2 only). Full Terms and Conditions apply (see your local Nissan dealership for details). Schemes available at participating Nissan dealers only. Schemes not available in conjunction with Motability or any other offers. Terms and Conditions subject to change without prior notice. Excludes Channel Islands / Isle of Man. Offer available at participating dealers only. NOTE and Micra shown have optional metallic paint at £400 including VAT. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

by STEVELOADER

Invicta expansion shrugs off car trade depression

FORD dealer Invicta has added two new brands and sites in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells to its Kent portfolio.

The acquisition marks the end of the former Drake and Fletcher car dealership chain, with both locations – at Park Wood and Dowding Way respectively – now re-branded as Invicta.

It also severs Invicta's exclusive link with UK market leader Ford, by adding the Japanese Honda and Mazda franchises held at both newly-acquired sites.

It is the first time Invicta's parent group, Cambria, has taken on a Honda dealership, though it already sold Mazdas within what is now a nationwide spread of 37 outlets and 13 brands turning over some £400 million.

Invicta executive director Brian Murray told Driving: "We are part of a rapidly expanding group actively looking for sound acquisitions.

"And though it is the first time we have broken away from the Ford brand in Kent, the opportunity to take over two sound going concerns was not to be missed."

His comments were supported by the fact that, far from looking for cutbacks after takeover, Invicta has taken on all 85 former Drake and Fletcher staff and will recruit a further four or five people.

The new dealerships are also a good geographical fit with Invicta's Ford outlets at Canterbury, Ashford and Ramsgate and Mr Murray did not rule out adding franchises at the new sites or shopping for more outlets.

He also revealed plans for a £400,000, 10-12-week makeover at the Maidstone site, starting in June.

With Invicta's expansion, Cambria has added 10 dealerships across the UK in a matter of months and is thriving in a tough market after filing profits up 140 per cent during its most recent financial year.





BOOST: Invicta expects to benefit from Honda's versatile supermini MPV (left) and Mazda's sporty line-up typified by this Mazda3 MPS

Mr Murray admitted that, like the trade generally, his group had benefited from the Government-backed Scrappage scheme, but that was all but ended and the negative effect would be exacerbated by the so-called 'Showroom Tax' from April 1, with hefty road tax levies on the most-polluting new cars.

"It going to be a tough year for new car sales," said Mr Murray. "However, we continue to do well with quality used cars."

He agreed that used car prices had become unusually high, due to the recession throttling new car sales and tightening supplies of used cars further down the line, while Scrappage had taken some older cars out of the market causing knock-on demand and price pressures for newer used cars.

However, he said many buyers were still reluctant to jump from paying high used car prices to seeking keen deals on new cars. "The habitual used car buyer is still looking for a used car," he said.

And manufacturers had also got their production levels into better shape, he added, avoiding the need to 'move metal' at any price.

"I think customers will find that there are very long lead times now on the most desirable models as manufacturers adjust forward planning," said Mr Murray.

All Invicta sites are celebrating the new-look Kent operation with an open weekend on March 27-28 with special incentives and attractions.

Looking at his new Honda and Mazda acquisitions, Mr Murray was excited by the sales possibilities of the Honda Jazz supermini/MPV – now built at Swindon – having a genuine sports car, the MX-5, in the sales mix and by the "young, fresh attitude" of the Mazda brand generally.

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5.9% APR typical†



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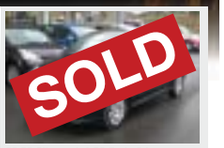
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New Citroën shows higher expectations of downsizers

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And this new downsizing with higher expectations trend has been recognised by Citroën as it bids to shake and shape up its contention in the increasingly important supermini sector.

The French firm has two new entrants here: the DS3 – first of a new 'executive/designer' brand within a brand – and the second generation Citroën C3.

The DS3 stands out an obvious rival to the BMW Mini and Fiat 500 cult cars, whereas the new C3 aims to tempt existing C3 customers and conquest buyers looking for French chic on the cheap.

The C3 is certainly a vast improvement on the previous car; I thought it a pretty so-so affair wrapped in a visually friendly, even cuddly, egg-shaped design that evoked the brand's classic 2CV.

This imagery and occasionally bonkers discounting did much to blind motoring Francophiles to the car's cramped cabin, sloppy driving characteristics and poor build.

But Citroën clearly saw the need to upgrade the C3 this time rather than simply replace it, so the new car is far more impressive.

DrivingReview



by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Citroën C3

It looks and feels much classier and is better able to deliver a larger car feel for those who really are trading a family hatchback or something bigger in favour of this little five-door supermini.

The new C3 also feels like a more deserving sister to the impressive C5, competing in the Ford Mondeo Class, and to the premium DS mentioned earlier.

We tested the car courtesy of the Wilmoths Citroën chain's site at Maidstone – now



celebrating the first anniversary of its opening – where general sales manager Kelvin Clayton was quick to defend the old car, yet promote its successor.

"You have got to remember that the original C3 came out seven years ago and things have moved fast in the industry and at Citroën, but it has been a good seller for us and will continue to offer value as a used buy," he said.

"The new car takes us to a new level and



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we expect to do well with it." The test car was an upmarket 1.4 Exclusive with a lively 95bhp VTi 16v petrol engine (£14,090), wearing its interior chroming and leather trimming well, and it also comes with auto climate and cruise controls.

It has the eye-catching Zenith panoramic front screen too that is set to become the new C3's trademark; this is standard on all but the VT entry model (from £10,790) and comes with a neat pull down interior 'roof' and sun visors.

It brings a marvellous and stylish luxury touch to the C3 range and defines its more upmarket stance compared to its predecessor.

There is little disappointment on the move either; the C3 has a far better balance of ride comfort and handling than before and the 1.4 engine is well-suited to the car, though there are 1.1 and 1.6-litre petrol alternatives plus 1.4 and 1.6 diesels.

My only criticism on the test model was the slightly sloppy gearshift, which may irritate keen drivers, but there is so much more to like about this smarter and swisher C3.

And it should be cheap to run too, with a range of frugal low emission engines plus a miserly road tax exempt 1.6 diesel version arriving soon, wearing Citroën's ultra-eco Airdream sub-branding and priced at an attractive £14,490.

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DrivingPortfolio

CITROËN 1.4 VTI EXCLUSIVE £14,090

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Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£120/year
Best rival	VW Polo

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the vague gearbox on the 1.4-litre petrol test car

NOT SURE: the C3 can yet match the VW Polo and Ford Fiesta for outright quality

REALLY LIKE: the marriage of French chic and higher quality plus that eye-catching panoramic roof

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Airport's wings clipped by Government review

By STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BATTLE lines are being drawn on Romney Marsh after the Government this week blocked a £25 million plan to expand operations at Lydd Airport.

After a fiery seven-hour debate on March 4, Shepway District Council voted 27 to 12 in favour of applications to build a 294-metre runway extension and new terminal capable of handling up to 500,000 passengers a year.

But the Government's environment adviser Natural England quickly urged ministers to call-in Shepway's resolution and mount a public inquiry.

Another environment group, Protect Kent, also wrote to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE). Protesters are concerned about the airport's growth affecting wildlife habitats on the Marsh. As a result, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government John Denham has put the plans on hold until April 22 while he reviews the details.



LONG VIEW: Computer images of runway extension and (inset) terminal

Even on the eve of this move, a clearly exasperated airport MD, Jonathan Gordon, was insisting there was "no good reason" for a delay and possible public inquiry because the Lydd plans do not meet criteria for calling in planning applications. He said: "Our two applications do not conflict with national policies, they would have no significant effects beyond their immediate locality, they would not give rise to substantial regional or national controversy, they do not raise significant architectural and urban design issues and they do not involve interests of national security or of foreign governments.

"What's more, the democratically elected members of Shepway have reviewed, examined and questioned the applications.

"An inquiry would be costly for all concerned and cause significant delay in the development of the airport."

Protect Kent – the Kent branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England – welcomed the review though, arguing the wider impacts of the proposals, particularly on the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, were ignored during the marathon council meeting.

Protect Kent chairman Richard Knox-Johnston said: "We believe the employment benefits have been overstated and that the impacts on the environment and quality of life have been ignored."

PRE-BUDGET COMMENT

GORDON Brown and his ministers have been more tight-lipped than usual about the Budget content, *writes KOS Media business editor Steve Loader*.

Probably because there will be nothing dramatic about Wednesday's reckoning ahead of one of the most crucial elections in decades – widely tipped for May 6.

Chancellor Alistair Darling will not want to make a wrong move that could lose Labour the election. However, by fudging the figures and spilling coffee over the economic route map, Labour could also hand the prize to the opposition.

This would also contrast with the party's habit of quoting figures and stats, always with that lovely line "in real terms", which rebounded on the PM when forced to backtrack over assertions to the Iraq inquiry that he had steadfastly raised the UK defence budget annually … in real terms. The opposition parties enjoyed the stumble, having endured many Brown speeches quoting figures rather like an old-style Soviet commissar intoning tractor and steel production targets for the next five-year plan.

Even the rhetoric is looking wobbly now. A recent Brown speech struck a Churchillian tone with "we are weathering the storm" and "we will hold to our course", suggesting our gnarled old skipper will see us safely to port, only for his next breath to warn "there will be bumps in the road", rather suggesting we are riding pillion with him on an asthmatic Vespa. The fact is Labour – in power for 13 years and looking increasingly unlucky – is not ideologically suited to getting the UK back on course fast.

While using "Protecting the recovery" as a mantra, Brown and co seem unable to spell out plans to address the nation's huge debt, which is endangering the UK's triple-A credit rating for effective borrowing to shore-up recovery.

By contrast, the Conservatives have confirmed that they would start reducing the debt this year if they win the election.

From the perspective of Kent businesses, the outlook remains uncertain anyway, whoever wins the election. The recession ended officially in January, though a revision of the growth figure from a weedy 0.1 per cent in the final quarter to 0.3 per cent, gave little reassurance.

And we reported recently how the county's businesses were shouldering a major share of an estimated £80 billion burden in the UK due to red tape.

It has been suggested that sterling's fall could help the UK return to its traditional strength as an exporter of manufactured goods rather than relying on 'invisibles' such as finance – now doing penance for its part in the economic crash.

With the notable exception of two Kent companies mentioned in this week's section though, are would-be export heroes really going to take risks after the recession and with an election looming?

Aren't they more likely to use long-awaited benefits and profits from a weak pound to consolidate rather than taking on new risks?

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MONEY TALK

By LIZ RULE
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

ISA investors must act now

IF YOU are an ISA investor, be it cash or stocks and shares, you are running out of time to use your 2009/2010 allowance, if you have not already done so.

Applications must be received by April 5, but this year the tax year end falls at Easter and so realistically you have until April 1 or 2 – which is only two weeks away – to ensure you use your allowance or lose it.

As a reminder of the allowances for those aged over 50, up to £5,100 of your ISA allowance can be saved in cash with one provider. The remainder of the £10,200 can be invested in a stocks and shares ISA with either the same or another provider.

Alternatively, the full £10,200 can be invested in a stocks and shares ISA with one provider.

There are lower limits in place for the under-50s with £7,200 allowed to a stocks and shares ISA or £3,600 to cash.

Long term

The higher limits will apply to all eligible ISA investors with effect from April 6, 2010, irrespective of age.

Anyone considering investing in a stocks and shares ISA should be clear it is an investment that should be considered long term, that is at least five years, preferably 10.

Also, it is important to pick the right fund. In my opinion the right fund is likely to be one that is diversified into many different asset classes and actively managed. Beware flavour-of-the-month funds, such as China or technology, unless you are a very experienced investor with a large asset base.

Better still, get advice from a qualified financial planner on where to invest, although bearing in mind the timescales you will need to get your appointment booked quickly.

There is always a bit of a rush at the end of the tax year, so act now.

Small spark of inspiration could offset energy crisis



BOX CLEVER : Minimise MD Paul West

NOBODY could say that a Rochester firm's creation looks like a winning solution to a forthcoming electricity crisis, ***writes Steve Loader***.

The product from Minimise even uses the shorthand labelling IMOP in an effort to imbue some glamour to its boxy looks. The full title – inductive motor optimisation panel – just isn't terribly sexy. But the IMOP is claimed to be just the right product at the right time for UK and export markets.

Evidence from UK energy regulator Ofgem suggests the nation's ability to generate sufficient electricity over the next 10 years could not only fall short of demand, but prices could soar by 25 per cent. We could even face power cuts. Ofgem is already warning business customers the only way to keep their energy bills down will be to cut consumption, so the IMOP is sparking interest across all sectors.

For a start, potential 25 per cent savings from the device indicate it could immediately counteract the price increase already mentioned while lowering carbon emissions.

Minimise MD Paul West said: "Governments worldwide are putting increasing pressure on businesses to reduce carbon emissions and it is likely financial penalties will be imposed, as has been seen in Ireland. By installing IMOP using the Carbon Trust loan scheme, businesses can safeguard themselves against such future costs, effectively for free."



SMALL WONDER: An IMOP device next to a briefcase

The IMOP works by being linked to an electrical motor, making it run more efficiently, reducing maintenance and prolonging its life.

The claims have been verified by the EU's Environmental Technologies Verification scheme (Tritech ETV) and the UK Government-sponsored Carbon Trust, which provides specialist support to business and the public sector to help cut carbon emissions, save energy and commercialise low carbon technology. Carbon Trust support comes in the form of help for firms to obtain unsecured, interest-free loans for up to four years for installation of IMOP products.

Minimise claims an IMOP installation should pay for itself in two years and easily cover the cost of the loan, while also helping companies address potential penalties attracted by their carbon emissions.

The device can be used on pumps, motors, heaters, fluorescent lighting – anything that consumes electricity. A sizing kit instantly selects the right size of IMOP for the motor to be coupled to it, seen as crucial to the commercial success of the IMOP itself by making installation accurate and efficient.

Minimise is a joint venture between electronic components specialist APC – which has sites in Rochester and across the UK – and electrical contractors and individuals. APC this week expected a return to profit over the six months up to the end of February this year, compared with the same period in 2008-09.

Revenue is expected to be £6.5 million with a net profit before tax of around £40,000, against £6.8m and a £281,000 loss.

To see this search 'Idiom' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Idiom Edge is a young company specialising in CV and interview advice. Julie Maddocks speaks to founder Christina Breaden



College audience at No 10

HADLOW College principal Paul Hannan has attended a reception at 10 Downing Street recognising the Kent institution's progress.

Along with leaders from England's highest performing and most quickly improving colleges, he met Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson and Further Education Minister Kevin Brennan.

Mr Hannan said: "Representing Hadlow College at Downing Street has been an honour.

"It is gratifying when the college's achievements are recognised at the highest level and it is an acknowledgement of the hard work and effort from everyone involved at Hadlow College."

The college near Tonbridge – seen as a beacon for Kent's fast-expanding farming and horticulture industry – was invited to the reception having been rated grade one (outstanding) for overall effectiveness during the last Ofsted inspection cycle.

This achievement is all the more impressive as the college faced ruin just eight years earlier and was a far cry from comments made at No 10, when Gordon Brown told Mr Hannan and his fellow heads: "These colleges are among the very best and most improving in the country and I am hugely impressed by their commitment to helping people get the skills, the training, and inspiration to achieve their full potential.



HONOUR: Hadlow College's Paul Hannan

"The principals, staff and students should be very proud of their achievements."

John Lewis partners celebrate 'good year'

JOHN LEWIS staff across Kent are celebrating a recession-defying bonus of 15 per cent of their salary after the retailer's strong performance over the past year, ***writes Steve Loader***.

The group, which includes the Waitrose supermarket chain and the John Lewis department stores, is co-owned by staff or 'partners' who each receive a percentage of their pay from company profits rather the money going into shareholders' dividends, as in a normal company.

Their reward was well-earned over the last year according to John Lewis Partnership chairman Charlie Mayfield, who said: "Partners have shown tremendous commitment during changing times.

Delighted

"I am therefore delighted that our partners will share fairly in the financial rewards of a successful year with a partnership bonus of £151.3 million, which means all our 70,000 partners will receive a bonus of 15 per cent of their salary, equivalent to nearly eight weeks' pay."

The group has a flagship John Lewis outlet at the Bluewater shopping centre and Waitroses in Kent at Ashford, Bromley, Bromley South, Beckenham, Green Street Green, Ramsgate, Hythe, Dartford, Longfield, Allington in Maidstone, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Sevenoaks, Biggin Hill and Tenterden.

These sites contributed to gross nationwide sales rising 6.5 per cent/£454m over the past year to £7.4 billion. Group operating profits rose 20.5 per cent/£66.4m to £389.7m. However, these figures do include £127.4m gained from selling the group's Ocado online delivery service. Mr Mayfield said: "This was a year of profound change across the partnership and the resilience and flexibility of our business model has underpinned a market-leading performance.

"We have continued to invest, innovate and grow, emerging from the recession in a stronger competitive position. Waitrose has made enormous progress in the year with significant investment in both price and in the development of new shops, new formats and strategic partnerships."

Mr Mayfield said he sensed a return in consumer confidence during 2009, with both Waitrose and John Lewis enjoying their best performances of the year over the crucial Christmas period.

The report also paints a rosy picture for the group's staff as other UK workers face cutbacks in pay and conditions; partners benefit from store discounts, subsidised catering subsidy, leisure spending and five holiday centres run by the group, and an attractive pension fund.

She's a rising star



BLUEWATER'S John Lewis store has appointed its first woman MD.

Karen Lord is regarded as a rising star of the company, having joined the John Lewis Partnership in 1993 at the Reading store after graduating in French and management studies.

She moved quickly around the group with major posts as general manager at Brent Cross for 18 months and MD at Solihull for three years before coming to the Kent store – rated number three in the John Lewis hierarchy and a proven pathway to the top.

She succeeds Simon Russell, who has moved to the John Lewis Partnership's London headquarters where another former Bluewater MD, Andy Street, is now the head of the group.

Ms Lord said: I'm delighted to be joining John Lewis Bluewater and working in the largest and most innovative retail development in Europe."

Calling the tune

UPMARKET coffee house Caffé Concerto opened a new outlet at Bluewater this week.

The Italian café and restaurant chain operates nine locations throughout the M25 area and has taken space in the Village area of Bluewater.

Caffé Concerto managing director Stephano Bojak said: "We are happy to be finally launching a site at Bluewater. We see this as a major achievement as the brand moves from strength to strength."

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/04/2012 **OD:** £1,329

NATWEST INT SOLS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.65% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/03/2012 **OD:** £1,029

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013 **OD:** £1,044

BM SOLUTIONS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/05/2013 **OD:** £2,174

OTHER

NORTHERN ROCK
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.659% **L:** 70% **U:** 01/05/2012 **OD:** £1,030

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,290

MORTGAGE BOX ACCORD
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/04/2012 **OD:** £2,285

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 1.84% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £2,310

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COUPLE AGED 25		COUPLE AGED 35	
AVIVA	£31.32	AVIVA	£60.33
FRIENDS PRVDNT	£32.59	FRIENDS PRVDNT	£63.84
LV=	£33.40	PRUPROTECT	£66.42
PRUPROTECT	£33.52	AXA	£67.22
AXA	£33.68	LV=	£68.41
COUPLE AGED 30		**COUPLE AGED 40**	
AVIVA	£41.34	AVIVA	£93.50
FRIENDS PRVDNT	£43.46	FRIENDS PRVDNT	£100.55
PRUPROTECT	£44.72	PRUPROTECT	£111.31
AXA	£44.82	SCOT PRVDNT	£111.36
LV=	£45.92	AXA	£117.53

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Farmer Boxers clever



PRIZE GUYS: Paul Gilbert (right) accepts the laptop from Rene Pollak of Dow

A FARMER from Linton, Maidstone, has won a top prize in a national competition run by Dow AgroSciences.

Michael Gilbert landed a laptop computer in the contest to promote the company's Boxer herbicide. He was ill at the time of the presentation, but said: "I have never won anything in my life before, and coming at a time when I have not been well, this was a lovely surprise."

The laptop was accepted on Michael's behalf by his son Paul, who runs the farm with his father. Together they farm 420 hectares, growing winter wheat, oilseed rape and winter beans.

Paul said: "We had issues with cleavers a couple of years ago and used Boxer. It did a fantastic job, so I would certainly recommend it."



Top speakers boost 2020

KENT 2020 Vision, billed as the South East's leading business conference and exhibition, is tipped to be even bigger this year.

Some 350 exhibitors and 4,000 visitors attended Kent 2020 last year, but organisers Business Support Kent expect the business community to shrug off the economic gloom and turn out in even greater force this time.


James Caan

The event on Thursday, April 22, at the Kent County Showground, Detling, near Maidstone, has been boosted by a celebrity line-up of speakers including entrepreneur and Dragons' Den star James Caan; and Nick Hewer, Lord Alan Sugar's eyes and ears on The Apprentice.

Entrance is also free to delegates, though they are advised to register beforehand at www.kent2020.co.uk.

Carole Black, Business Support Kent events manager, said: "As well as a great line-up of speakers, we will have hundreds of Kent companies eager to do business. We know how important face-to-face contact is, so this year we have increased the size of the networking areas so it's easy to sit down, grab a coffee, and make new contacts.

"From March 29, delegates who register at www.kent2020.co.uk can contact other exhibitors and visitors prior to the event to arrange a meeting on the day. It's a great way of ensuring you get to meet the people you really want to see."

During the afternoon, visitors will get the chance to quiz some of Kent's top entrepreneurs who will describe their unique experiences, the challenges they encountered and offer advice.

This panel will include: Alastair Jessel, of Taywell Ice Creams; Gerard Coleman, of Artisan du Chocolat; Sharon Goodyer, of The Cake Bake Company – famed for a life-size sponge cake model of a Skoda car; and Paula Jones, who launched her own company after appearing on series five of The Apprentice.

Defiant duo bank on backing for growth

TWO Kent companies have shrugged off the continuing economic gloom by negotiating major finance for expansion, ***writes KOS Media business editor Steve Loader***.


NEW DEAL: Peter Delaney flanked by NatWest's Adam Turrell, left, and Paul Staines

The companies, in Medway and Sittingbourne, also have a common bond through NatWest having put their loan deals in place.

Window and door hardware firm VBH (GB), which has its UK headquarters at Gillingham, has agreed a £2.5 million invoice finance line with NatWest.

After 28 years in its sector, VBH is the market leading subsidiary of German parent company VBH AG, and runs a national network of sales/stock centres distributing 20,000 products.

The UK arm sourced products from Britain and continental Europe historically, but has fostered supplies from China to boost choice for its customers.

The new £2.5m invoice finance line will be used to help secure these imports and allow for working capital.

VBH (GB) financial director Fay Keddie said: "We were looking for a bank that fully supports our vision for growth and revised importing strategy. NatWest delivered."

Richard Gower, VBH's relationship manager at NatWest, said: "The invoice finance line for VBH (GB) shows that good, commercially viable firms are able to raise funds that make a real difference to their business models in this economic environment.

"A real benefit here has been that we have worked closely with the company and become attuned to their business strategy on a UK and global scale, allowing us to provide funding support accordingly."


CRACKING: Richard Gower of NatWest (left) and VBH MD Peter Rowlands

Sittingbourne-based Gallery, a British-based designer, manufacturer and distributor of wall decor to the home furnishings industry, used NatWest to secure funding for export growth.

Gallery was founded in 1973 as a small, family-run business, but has expanded into a leading British name in its sector, supplying framed mirrors, framed art, canvases, metal wall art, lamps, clocks and table sets to trade customers. It also supplies to 14 countries, mainly in Europe, North America and Australasia, and has a manufacturing joint venture in China working to British designs, plus a dedicated operations centre in Hong Kong. The company also has an in-house design team.

New funding was organised by relationship manager at NatWest, Paul Staines, with international expertise from Adam Turrell of the bank's global transaction services department.

Gallery MD Peter Delaney said: "The team at NatWest have been very supportive from the outset and structured a deal which met all of our requirements and provided access to a range of solutions with one provider.

"We are dealing with Paul for our day-to-day banking and grateful for the international support Adam provided for trade finance – everyone has been very proactive and personable.

"It will also make life easier to work with a bank that can offer a variety of specialist advice for when we need to look at other future funding options."



Swedish merger gets to the Point

ONE of Kent's leading IT businesses has been sold to a Swedish rival for an undisclosed sum.

Ashford-based Commidea specialises in credit card processing systems and services and was bought by Point International of Stockholm, which has similar expertise and runs offices across the Nordic and Baltic regions.

Founded in 1992, Commidea employs 140 people and has its headquarters at Eureka Park. It used Kent lawyers Vertex Law and the Crawley office of finance experts Grant Thornton to advise on the deal.

"This was a complex transaction," said Vertex Law's Trevor Carney. "It involved the jurisdiction of several countries as well as intellectual property issues and all the transactional legal work normally associated with this type of purchase. The deal sees Commidea become a fully-owned subsidiary of Point International while continuing to operate under its own brand."

He said Commidea had become one of the UK's leading developer and provider of credit card processing systems and services for virtually every sector, including high street retail, e-commerce, mail order, telesales, leisure and hospitality.

Commidea MD Simon Wilding said: "It is the ideal time to join forces. Like Commidea, Point has a strong track record in innovation. The merger enables us to continue the development and delivery of market leading solutions such as advanced security and 'contactless' payment technology."

EMC adds Ellam to expert team


David Ellam

FAST-growing business troubleshooting and corporate finance firm EMC has added another senior consultant to its Kent team at Maidstone.

David Ellam, who lives at Borough Green, is the third recruit in just a few weeks, reflecting extra demand for EMC's services during the downturn. The chartered accountant has spent the last eight years working in the biotech sector after senior financial management positions with companies including GE Capital Insurance and credit card provider Morgan Stanley.

EMC Kent director Desmond High said: "David has had considerable experience in taking fast-growth businesses to market through an IPO [Initial Public Offer] which we see as a valuable asset for biotech and technology businesses in particular."

Formed in 1989, EMC has five offices across the South East including Maidstone and has pioneered the concept of the 'mobile boardroom' – a multi-disciplined team providing top-level support to businesses on a short or long-term basis.

EMC has also helped with business sales, acquisitions, mergers and restructuring.

SHOPPING levels at Bluewater, claimed to be Europe's leading retail and leisure destination, were nearly double the national average in February – 8.5 per cent against 4.5 per cent – compared with February 2009.

Top sectors were fashion (up six per cent), health and beauty (nine), footwear (13) and homeware (19).

Runaway leader though, perhaps reflecting consumer desperation to escape the freezing weather, was travel (up 53 per cent).

Bluewater general manager Andrew Parkinson said the buoyant results were driven by poor weather and the centre's appeal as a day out destination.

The news follows plans for a Bluewater events venue, opening in late 2011 and featuring 12 restaurants, five new shops and Bluewater's 12-screen cinema.

RESTAURANTS and pubs could also afford to raise a glass after more positive results in February.

Major operators tracked by the sector's Coffer Peach Report saw like-for-like sales rise 1.3 per cent against February 2009 and an overall sales rise of three per cent – welcome relief after bad weather sparked a five per cent slump in like-for-likes for January. But a spokesman at KPMG – a contributor to the tracker report – sounded a cautious note: "Sales have bounced back after the snow, but consumer confidence and the uncertain economic outlook remain big challenges. Potential clouds on the horizon include the threat of public sector spending cuts impacting jobs and consumer spending, and rumours of a potential VAT rise. Shrewd operators will be focusing on quality service and competitive pricing to keep customers coming through the doors."

HALF of private businesses in Kent and the South East cut staff headcounts significantly over the past year, says a report by finance and business experts at Grant Thornton.

This compares with a quarter over the previous 12 months and was roughly in line with the national average.

Grant Thornton's spokesman for the sector, David Campbell, said: "It's still tough out there for private companies, with many facing severe financial pressures forcing them to reduce headcount to stay afloat.

"The significant jump in the number of businesses that have reduced their headcount is very concerning, particularly if the trend continues.

"A reduced headcount for businesses will no doubt have a knock-on effect on household incomes, slowing the country's economic recovery. With growth of just 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009, it's clear we have a long way to go."

FURLEY Page is running breakfast seminars from April 21 aimed at providers of care services and care home owners and managers.

They are billed as a call-to-action prior to the October 1 deadline requiring adult social care and independent healthcare providers to register with the Care Quality Commission. For more information, email js@furleypage.co.uk.

RECORD numbers of people and businesses face insolvency and the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAEW) has responded with a free downloadable guide from www.icaew.com.

'The role of the insolvency practitioner … picking up the pieces' describes the work of the practitioner and common misunderstandings. Spokesman Vernon Soare said: "This booklet is designed to help anyone who might be affected by insolvency, from owner managers and shareholders to creditors and suppliers as well as employees and customers."

Ambition released

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

MARK Turrell realised jail could hamper his job prospects after serving his sentence.

He was also desperate to persuade others not to make the same mistake. Both thoughts combined to inspire him to launch his own business in north Kent, to help cut youth street crime and boost job opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

The Dartford man's creation, Martells N Hoodies, is a youth apprenticeship scheme providing an environment in which to train, study and socialise.

It is helping 10 young people learn valuable building skills, while refurbishing buildings that benefit communities and Mark wants to double the intake over the next year. Mark launched Martells N Hoodies after taking his idea to Government-backed Business Link, where north Kent enterprise director Melodie Webster helped him make it happen.


Mark Turrell and Laura Morgans

"I knew I wanted to do something positive for the youth community of Dartford, and to use the skills I learnt while serving my sentence," said Mark.

"My partner Laura Morgans and I went to the Business Link website after we had been told about how they could help.

"Melodie advised me on how to turn my idea into a business and guided me through the stages of starting a social enterprise – a business for the good of the community."

Dartford is classed as a deprived area and Mark realised many 16 to 30-year-olds seemed doomed to follow his path into prison.

"The project's main aim is to help young people become constructive, rather than destructive," he said. "I'm keen for other disadvantaged young people to avoid making the same mistakes I did."


SUPPORT: Melodie Webster

Martells N Hoodies apprentices learn construction and trade skills such as painting and decorating and qualifications to help get a job.

"The apprenticeship opportunities are really hands-on and enable people, who have often come out of education with low self-esteem and no qualifications, to grow in confidence as their abilities improve," said Mark.

"We aim to provide an outlet for creativity by regenerating old, disused or dilapidated properties, particularly in areas which need a youth or community space."

Ms Webster said: "Enterprise and enterprising individuals boost the local economy.

"My role is to help people spot opportunities, utilise their talents and develop the skills and confidence necessary to succeed.

"Mark and Laura's drive and inspiration has been a joy. He is one of many aspiring entrepreneurs we help turn dreams into reality with coaching and support."



The spirit of expansion

CROSS-Channel ferry operator LD Lines has re-drawn its route map after striking up a partnership with Transeuropa Ferries.

Both operators are pooling resources on a new and unchallenged Ramsgate-Ostend passenger and freight service from March 27. The original plan for one vessel has been expanded. The route will now be operated by Ostend Spirit – formerly LD's Dover-Boulogne service Norman Spirit – and Transeuropa's Oleander. This allows four return sailings to Belgium daily and boosts capacity. The Oleander carries 1,326 passengers, 127 cars and 42 freight vehicles, while Ostend Spirit has capacity for 1,850 passengers, 700 cars and 110 trucks.

LD has moved to cover the loss of Norman Spirit from its Dover-Boulogne link by introducing the Norman Bridge, though this is smaller, with a capacity of 400 passengers, 130 cars and 40 trucks.

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Business Link

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Mediocre companies make mediocre profits and stumble from day to day

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Timeline

KOS Media Sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910 **100 YEARS AGO:** SCANDAL befell the semi-finals of the Tunbridge Wells Charity Cup when the game between Halstead and Ticehurst, held at a neutral venue at Broomhill Park, turned nasty and had to be abandoned.

The reporter said the match was called off after an "unseemly incident" when the Halstead centre forward fouled Ford, the Ticehurst outside right.

The referee, intending to send the player off, asked for his name, but the player refused. He then asked the captain, but he also declined to name the miscreant, and with the rest of the side clamming up, following exchanges that were described with presumably a hefty amount of understatement, as "none too pleasant," the game was abandoned.

Ticehurst had already been forced to play with 10 men after one of their players suffered a blow to the ribs, but according to the reporter: "The decisions of the referee, it is contended, accounted in measure for this."

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** HARRY Barratt took his entire Gillingham squad with him on a scouting mission to Aldershot, where his side's next opponents, Watford, were playing a midweek fixture.

With both the Gills and Watford vying for the fourth and final promotion spot, Barratt felt that the trip to the Recreation Ground would give his side an edge.

"Now that we have seen Watford in action we will be able to discuss collectively their relative weaknesses and see what can be done to exploit them on Saturday."

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** WHILE former Gillingham manager Len Ashurst was preparing to lead his Sunderland side out to face Norwich in the Milk Cup final at Wembley, one of his successors, Keith Peacock, was maintaining the Priestfield club's push for promotion from the old Division Three.

The Gills avoided a banana skin when they won 3-0 at Newport County, with Dave Mehmet, Russell Musker and Tony Cascarino scoring.

The Gills were then held to a 1-1 draw by Plymouth at Home Park, when Tommy Tynan struck 13 minutes from time, equalising an earlier penalty scored by Mehmet after a foul on Terry Cochrane - who ironically received a one-game ban for reaching 20 disciplinary points that season.

Jim McDonagh, who was on loan at Gillingham from Notts County, was named in the Republic of Ireland squad to face England at Wembley in a friendly.

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by, email them to our sports editor at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**

Mos' title win could spell end for coach

Parrish eyes next level but club can't afford to go with him

By **TONY HUDD**

INVICTA Dynamos coach Kevin Parrish cast doubts over his future after guiding the club to a seventh successive league title last weekend.

With financial constraints restricting the club's ambition of going up a level to the English Premier League, Parrish hinted he could move on if he received the right offer.

"While promotion is not a possibility, I would love to test myself at a higher level. What coach wouldn't want to pit his wits against the best?

"I know the EPL is not the competition it was and with teams like Romford and Swindon set to come down, our division will be stronger next season.

"I'm happy to be in charge of the Dynamos. I love the club and the people around it. But always there is that feeling that you would love a crack at the next level."

Needing just a solitary point, the Dynamos clinched the title last Saturday with a 5-2 win away to Wightlink Raiders and celebrated winning the crown in style the next day at the Gillingham Ice Bowl with a 10-4 win against Cardiff ENL Devils.

A delighted Parrish said: "People are asking me already about an eighth title and will I stop at 10. Hopefully, I'll be back to try and chalk up an eighth championship.



Picture: DAVID TREVALLION

AS FAR AS WE GO: Kevin Parrish (far left) and the Dynamos celebrate last weekend's title victory, but the coach will call it a day at the club if a better deal comes his way

"It's probably as good as the first one, perhaps even more satisfying because it was such a tough season with teams pushing us all the way. We had a couple of slip-ups, but were fortunate because so did other teams at the same time."

He heaped fulsome praise on his squad, admitting: "It's been one of the easiest squads I've had to work with. We had a couple of injuries to key players but everyone just got on with their job."

Dynamos now advance to the play-offs in the unusual position of not being favourites, which suits Parrish.

"I'm pleased about that because it takes the pressure off us," he said.

The Mos travel to Chelmsford to play the Chieftains this evening, tip-off is at 6.30pm.

Touch of spice what snooker needs, says Hawkins

KENT'S top snooker players have warmly welcomed a proposal to increase the number of ranking tournaments.

Entrance music, new destinations and different tournament formats are some of the plans considered since Barry Hearn became chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association in December.

While the added pizzazz may not sit well with traditionalists, the aim is to inject an 'X-Factor' in a similar way to Hearn's recent success promoting darts.

Barry Hawkins is ranked 17th in the world but under the existing calendar can still go several weeks during the season without a competitive match. The Dartford cueman is looking forward to an announcement next month, which is expected to reveal many of the changes for the 2010/11 season.



EXCITEMENT: Barry Hawkins says snooker needs a lift

He said: "I think it's quite exciting for the players. The last few years snooker has been in the doldrums, it's needed a massive boost and hopefully Barry Hearn can do that and jazz it up a bit."

A new event in Germany is planned next spring and more tournaments are anticipated. A range of groundbreaking ideas are being considered, including a one-frame shootout where 64 players compete in a one-day knockout.

World number 32 Gerard Green from Rainham, is keen on any plan which increases the number of tournaments open to professionals.

He said: "It sounds good, at the moment we have six ranking tournaments this year which is pathetic really for a professional sport.

"All the players want is to be able to play all-year round."

Both Hawkins and Greene will be in action at the China Open, which begins on March 29. It is the final ranking tournament ahead of the World Championship in Sheffield next month.

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On course for The Open

Royal St George's ready for Tiger's return in 2011



SUBTLE CHANGES: Royal St George's chiefs say the modifications they have made will put the world's best golfers to the test at next year's Open
Pictures: ADY KERRY

By DAVID PRITCHARD

ROYAL St George's have completed the main changes to the course in preparation for hosting The Open Championship next summer.

The illustrious tournament makes its 14th visit to the Sandwich venue in July next year. Work has been steadily gaining momentum for more than two years, with the major tweaks to the course already finished.

There were a host of modifications in the run-up to the previous event in 2003, with a new green and an extra 240 yards added across the 18 holes, but the changes this time round have been less dramatic.

New tees have been installed on five holes, making the course about 100 yards longer, while the fairway and bunkers on the 18th have been shifted to make the closing hole more challenging.

The course has a proud tradition of providing a stern test of even the best players, with only three of the 13 Open winners finishing under par. But with players hitting the ball further every year, the challenge for courses is to retain the difficulty, according to Christopher Gabbey, club secretary at Royal St George's.

"The trouble is with technology moving on you do have to adjust the course to match that," he said. "Bunkers that were in the right position 10 years ago for these guys are now completely irrelevant. That is a problem everyone is struggling with.

"We're very lucky here that we have oodles of space, so we do have room to make changes and lengthen the course, but there's always a limit to it.

"The holes are designed in a specific way and you risk by moving tees back all the time, changing the basic idea of that hole and that's not necessarily a good thing.

"You hope this mad march of technology won't go on and on because it will make a lot of courses basically redundant."

Meticulous

The course's thick rough has also received some attention. While remaining tough to play out from, it has been thinned to make it easier to find lost balls, especially down the right side of the first hole, which claimed Tiger Woods' opening tee shot in 2003.

The final major project on the course is a meticulous refurbishment programme of the course's bunkers, which continues to make sure they look picture perfect when the TV cameras arrive.

The condition of the course will be closely monitored throughout this year, with the final job bringing the semi-rough in closer to the fairways in the weeks leading up to The Open. But despite all the work which goes into preparing the course, Gabbey admitted there was one major factor which they could do little about.

He said: "The weather has a huge impact on how we prepare and what sort of condition the course is in. Last time round [in 2003] we had a wonderfully dry and hot summer. It was perfect.

"We would love a really dry week for The Open itself, but in the build-up we would like some warmth in the spring to really get things going and then the summer to warm up so the place is looking really proper linksy."

Ladies tee off in Morocco

DANI Masters and Claire Aitken began their golf seasons this week as the Ladies European Tour (LET) made its first ever visit to Morocco.

Both Kent golfers were making their first competitive outings on the LET since attending Qualifying School in December.

They avoided costly trips to New Zealand and Australia, which opened the LET season in the last month, preferring to stay at home and prepare for the European events.

Masters headed to north Africa hoping the Lalla Meryem Cup in Mohammédia will mark the start of a new era after two miserable years.

Injuries wrecked the 2008 season and cost the Maidstone golfer her Tour card, forcing a year spent largely on the sidelines.

Although the 27-year-old was unable to regain a full card at Q-School before Christmas, she finished high enough to expect entry to around half the LET events this season.

Aitken does have full exemption after an excellent performance at qualifying. The Gravesend golfer, who turned 24 last Sunday, also goes into the season with a point to prove after a disappointing debut on Tour last season which saw her make just three cuts.





Pictures: ADY KERRY

FRESH START: (l-r) Danielle Masters is fighting back from injury and Claire Aitken hopes to improve on a tough debut season on tour

Masters made the better start in the first round with three birdies in the opening four holes, while Aitken shot a three-over-par round of 75.

Both will be hoping to have played well enough over the first two rounds to survive the cut and still be involved when the tournament reaches its climax today.

They face a wait for their next LET event, which is in Antalya, Turkey, in May.

Tulloch European title hopes finely balanced

COURTNEY Tulloch is a step closer to competing at the European Gymnastics Championships after increasing his medal haul at last weekend's London Open.

The 14-year-old, representing Bearsted's Pegasus Gymnastics Club, has been invited to the next stage of trials for the championships, which take place in Birmingham from April 21-25.

In order to meet trial criteria, Tulloch and clubmate James Hall, also 14, were asked to compete in a field of 64 gymnasts, which included competitors from France, Bulgaria and Belgium up to the age of 18, but neither were over-awed.

Indeed, Tulloch finished fifth overall, collecting gold on rings – an apparatus he is quickly making his own – and bronze for both pommel and parallel bars as he notched up a total score of 79.450.

He may even have broken into the top three were it not for errors on the vault and high bar, but his promise continues to show after taking on, and beating, many older and more experienced gymnasts.

Hall, meanwhile, was also ranked in the top quarter of competitors as he finished 18th – impressing on the high bars where he made his Tchakev element look stylishly simple.

With exactly a month to go until the Europeans, Tulloch must maintain his fine form if he is to sufficiently impress the selectors and make the Great Britain team.



TRIALS: Courtney Tulloch



LOW GATES: Paul Bowden-Brown admits sharing Ashford's ground has not worked

Bowden-Brown: move to Ashford was a mistake

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown has admitted ground-sharing with Ashford has been "a mistake", but pleaded with stay-away fans to attend home games to boost the club's bid to return to the county town.

After seven years at Sittingbourne, the Stones moved to Homelands for the start of this season, but gates have suffered, with just 168 fans attending Tuesday's 1-1 draw with Horsham.

"I'm big enough and ugly enough to admit I made a mistake in moving us to Ashford," Bowden-Brown said.

"We weren't unhappy with Sittingbourne but I thought it would be a way of increasing match day revenue. It hasn't worked that way, but I would say that it isn't just us that's suffering. If you look at the likes of Dover and Tonbridge, gates are down everywhere."

The Stones chairman cites the extra travelling time as a contributing factor and admits the club's prolonged exile from the county town has bred apathy.

Planning permission

It is a decade since the club first unveiled plans to build a ground at James Whatman Way, but despite receiving planning permission in 2004, building is yet to start.

Bowden-Brown said when plans were revealed in March 2000 he expected the project to take five years.

"I'm not surprised 10 years have gone by," he said.

"It's embedded in my memory. Every single day something has happened, but we got involved with parties who promised us the world and then went bust, so it's been traumatic."

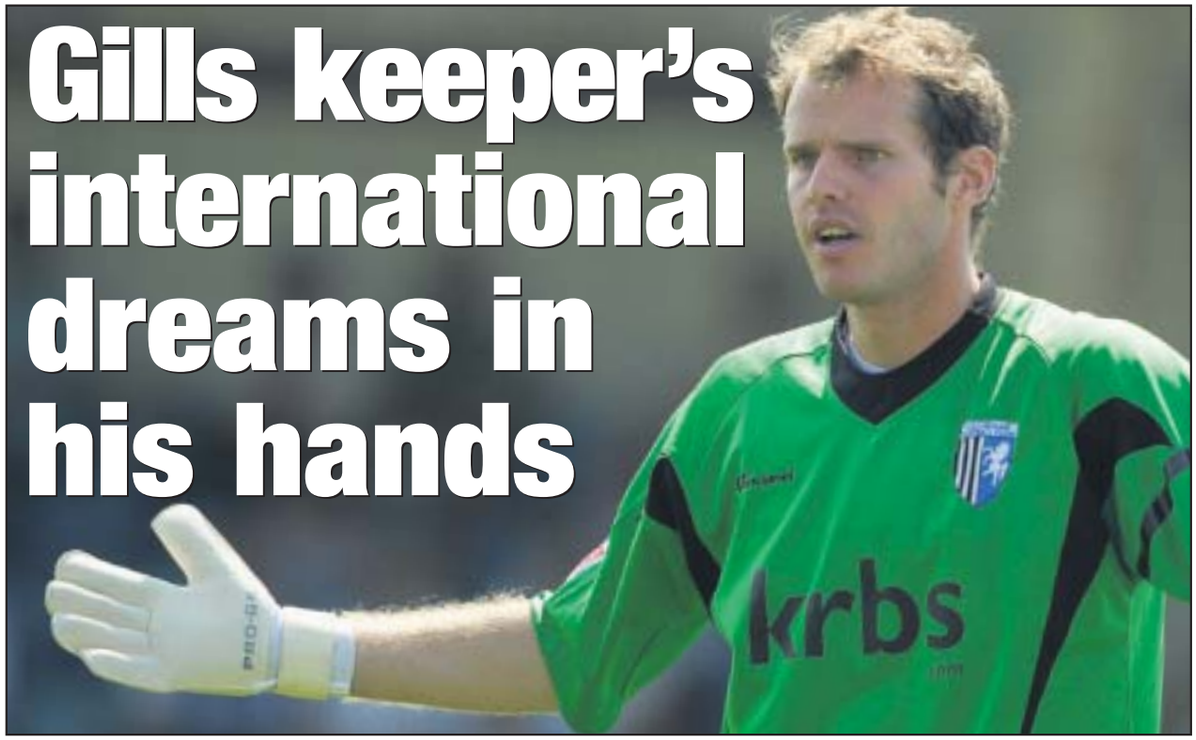
The club did receive a boost this week when Shadow Sports and Olympics Spokesman, Hugh Robertson MP, met with club representatives and publicly backed the stadium plan at a KCFA conference on Friday.

His office confirmed he would also be contacting Maidstone Borough Council about the issue.

"We have had an informal meeting with him and if he could open some doors for us that would be great," the club's director of football, Bill Williams said.

More sport headlines at:
www.kentnews.co.uk

Gills keeper's international dreams in his hands



Picture: ADY KERRY

Run in side can boost Northern Ireland hopes, says Julian

By DAVID PRITCHARD

ALAN Julian is hoping his extended run in the Gillingham side will catch the eye of Northern Ireland selectors and reignite his international career.

The goalkeeper won six caps at under-21 level, but has not been in contact with the Irish Football Association (IFA) in the five years since. Julian fell off the radar after dropping down from Brentford into non-league with Stevenage Borough, but almost two seasons after arriving at Priestfield, he appears to finally be in the process of establishing himself as Gillingham's number one.

Happy with his form at club level, Julian is eager just to be involved in Northern Ireland's senior set-up.

He said: "I'd love to get a call-up, but that's down to [manager] Nigel Worthington and the staff in charge there. I wouldn't say I'm hurting my chances playing here.

"It would be nice to get in the squad, they take three goalkeepers and to be one of those would be absolutely amazing. I haven't heard anything since I played in the under-21s and there are a lot of players out there I guess who are in the same boat as me.

Frustrating

"I'm not really thinking about it, I'm just concentrating on my form here and that would hopefully take care of itself."

After making just six appearances in his first year at the Gills, Julian looked set for another frustrating season until Simon Royce was involved in a car crash in December. Julian has not looked back since, with yesterday's game at Charlton his 18th consecutive start.

With the 38-year-old Royce approaching the twilight of his career, the path appears open for his former understudy to claim the number one jersey long term.

It is a far cry from the situation in November, when Julian submitted a transfer request due to a lack of first-team football. The 27-year-old is not sure if he is even still on the transfer list, but the run of games has changed his outlook.

He said: "I never wanted to leave the club; I just wanted to play football. I'm playing now and I'm happy – simple as that – so I don't want to leave. There's no problem at all.

"I just have to do my best and hope it's good enough to stay in the team. Unless you are someone like Wayne Rooney, I don't think anyone is 100 per cent certain of playing the next game.

"I'm the sort of character who will push myself regardless, but you can't relax with someone like Simon Royce behind you because he's a top goalkeeper."

Barham's new challenge

BENN Barham makes his first European Challenge Tour appearance for five years when he tees off in next week's Kenya Open.

The Ashford golfer, who lost his European Tour card last season following a disappointing 2009, was hoping to qualify for Spain's Open de Andalucia also next week, but instead will settle for a Challenge Tour return in Kenya.

The 34-year-old's trip to Africa will not only be his first Challenge Tour event for five years, but his first serious competition since January.

The Chart Hills professional, who spent the last four years on the European Tour, made an impressive start to the year after finishing tied 13th at the Africa Open in January.

Barham, who finished fourth in his last Challenge Tour event in October 2005, is looking forward to his return when the competition begins on Thursday.



Picture: ADY KERRY

RETURN: Kenya Open marks Benn Barham's first outing on the European Challenge Tour for five years

He said: "I've played in Kenya before, but it was a few years back. It's a nice course and I can't wait to get back into competitive action. I have been practicing hard and have figured out a few things I need to improve on. Hopefully I can go there and get a good result."

He is hoping to make his return to the main European Tour at the Madeira Islands Open, which begins on April 8.

After losing his European Tour card he is restricted to a handful of events as he bids to regain his card for the 2011 season.

New league is looking likely

PLANS to introduce a new non-league division to bring Kent in line with the rest of the country are advancing, with organisers hoping to launch it next year.

Under the existing system, Kent is one of only two counties not to have access to a division at step six in the football pyramid. It creates problems for clubs in the Kent County League's Premier Division (at step seven) to move up to the Kent League's top flight (at step five) due to the ground requirements needed for promotion to the higher level.

Slotting a division in between would make it easier for ambitious clubs to move up, with improvement grants far higher to step six clubs than those at step seven. It would also introduce relegation to the bottom of the Kent League, making the division more competitive.

Following a meeting of the main stakeholders last month there appears to be a common desire to see the new league in place for the start of the 2011/12 season.

Denise Richmond, Kent League chairman, said: "We've been pushing for this development for some time and are delighted that all parties have worked together in the best interests of football in Kent.

"There are still some challenging times ahead but our focus remains to form the new step six division in any way we can."

'Who do you think you are – Lewis Hamilton?'

With the new Formula One season under way, TOM HOWARD finds out what it is like to get behind the wheel of an F1 car

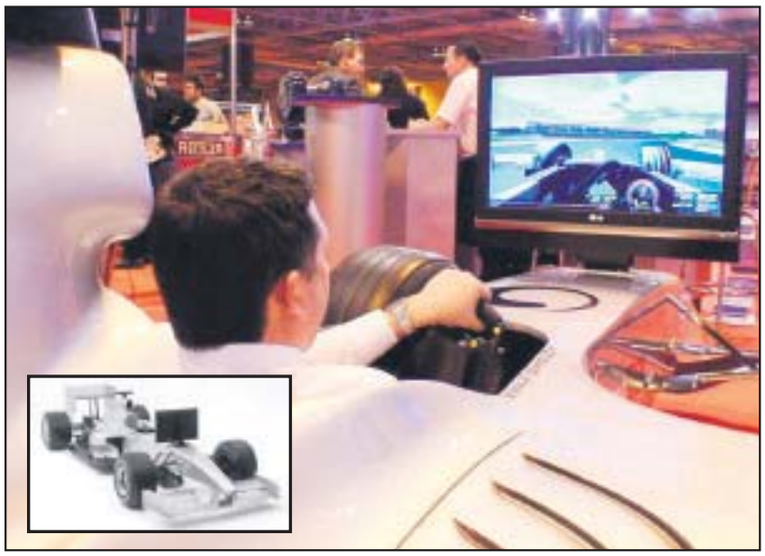
AS A lifelong petrol-head and motorsport nut, I have often watched Formula One wondering what it would be like to drive the world's fastest racing cars – now I know.

Sitting behind the wheel of the most advanced Formula One simulator is the closest an armchair enthusiast like myself will ever get to experiencing what the likes of Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button do on a regular basis.

At a Formula One launch party last week at Maidstone's Ramada Hotel, I was given the opportunity to test my skills on the track – or virtual track as the case may be – as well as getting a glimpse of what it takes to be a racing driver.

The simulator, built by Bob Salisbury Engineering, is used by the majority of teams in the Formula One paddock to help train their drivers.

The kit comprises a full-size Formula One show car, minus engine and electronics, but in place of these is a state-of-the-art computer simulation. The programme produces exact copies of every race track in the world down to the finest detail, including Kent's Brands Hatch, which was to be my task for the three laps I was to race.



DREAM MACHINE: The Formula One simulator allows motoring enthusiasts the chance to experience the speeds encountered by top drivers like world champion Jenson Button

Nausea

The simulators used by the Formula One teams are suspended on springs to replicate G Force. Fortunately for me, the car I used was without this option, as it has been known to cause nausea among those that use them.

Aston Martin Le Mans racer Stuart Hall was my instructor for the experience, although having been lucky enough to drive and be driven round Brands Hatch, I chose to ignore the professional's advice. Big mistake.

The first lap was a baptism of fire. For a split second I felt as just as good as Button and Hamilton, but that came to an abrupt halt after going against the advice of my instructor and spinning off mid corner at Paddock Hill bend. Feeling more like Rodney Trotter than Lewis Hamilton, I persevered. The biggest shock is just how sensitive the car is. Even a slight move of the steering wheel and pedals is mirrored by the car and can send you into trouble.

Once into my second lap I completely forgot where I was and became engrossed in extracting the very best out of the Brands Hatch circuit and myself. After settling into a rhythm, my final lap proved to be clean and fast and I actually set the fifth quickest time (out of 100 people) of 35 seconds, which turned out to be half a second slower than the instructor. Perhaps there is hope for me yet to become world champion.



THE REAL THING: Lewis Hamilton in a McLaren

After speaking to Hall, he explained why simulators are making an impact in the sport and why they will become essential for aspiring young drivers.

He said: "In Formula One they use simulators an awful lot, but not so much in sports-car racing at Le Mans. I have been using these for a few years now and they are really useful. With testing costs increasing, it's a great tool to be able to use.

"The only real difference is the fear factor. Racing a car you have the fear, but on the simulator that is taken away. We only race at Le Mans once a year so any practise you can get is helpful and to do that on a the simulator really helps. I use all the braking points I would use on the real circuits."

However, like most things in motorsport money plays a part. It would set you back £40,000 to become the owner of your very own Formula One car and simulator. In F1 terms it's a small price to pay to be like Lewis Hamilton in your living room and I have to admit it's certainly been added to my wish list.

If last Sunday's disappointing Bahrain Grand Prix made you feel you have what it takes to beat the world's best, visit www.f1driver.com for more information.

Touring dream becomes reality for racing veteran



OPPORTUNITY: Shaun Hollamby will compete against Britain's best drivers in the BTCC

KENT racing driver Shaun Hollamby embarks on a career-long dream next month when he competes in this year's British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

The 44-year-old driver has assembled an experienced AmD Miltek Sport team and acquired a Volkswagen Golf to take on some of Britain's best drivers in the popular BTCC.

Hollamby, from Orpington, began his racing career in karts at the age of 13, before moving his way up the motorsport pyramid. His greatest achievement came when he won the Dunlop Sportmaxx Cup in 2008.

The Kent racer cannot wait to take to the British Touring Car grid at the opening round at Thruxton on April 4.

He said: "It's a fantastic opportunity. I've always dreamed of racing in the championship and I remember going to watch races when I was younger.

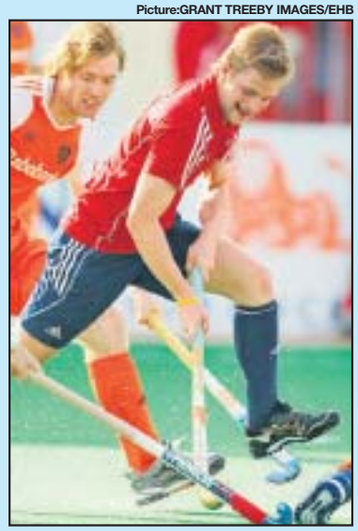
"It's the pinnacle of British motorsport, so to be a part of that is a great feeling."

The BTCC is notoriously competitive, with last year's series coming down to the wire at Brands Hatch.

Hollamby, a former television director for Formula One, is under no illusions of the task ahead for his newly-formed team and admitted this season will be the start of a learning curve.

He said: "At the start of the season we will be towards the back of the grid, but we are hoping to sneak a few points here and there. A podium finish would be amazing, but we are a way off that yet."

Picture:GRANT TREEBY IMAGES/EHB



HEARTACHE: Ashley Jackson, pictured in the play-off for bronze against Holland

World Cup ends in tears for our England starlet

DESPITE helping England's men to their best hockey World Cup performance in more than two decades, Ashley Jackson admits returning from India without a medal was "heartbreaking."

After winning the European title last summer, England went into the tournament in New Delhi optimistic of a first semi-final appearance since finishing second as hosts in 1986.

They began in style, stunning pre-tournament favourites Australia 3-2 on the opening day. Victories against South Africa, Pakistan and India followed and despite a defeat to Spain, they progressed to the last four.

The squad's growing hopes of reaching the final were dashed as they were despatched 4-1 by reigning champions Germany. A bronze medal was still a possibility, but England slipped from a 3-1 lead to lose 4-3 against the Netherlands to finish fourth.

Jackson, born in Chatham, was aiming for the semi-finals before leaving for India, but reaching that target is of little consolation now.

Outclassed

"We'd never been in that situation before and at the start we thought we'd be happy to get to the semi-finals," he said. "But once you get there and come away with nothing it's heartbreaking.

"The Germany game was easier to take because we were outclassed, but the fact it was us that lost the [Netherlands] game was pretty hard to take. I think it will be used as a group – we'll remember we never want to feel like this again and make sure we build on it."

Jackson came into the tournament with a burgeoning reputation after being named 2009 World Young Player of the Year in December. Still only 22, he reached his 50th England cap against the Netherlands, but despite finishing third in the top scorer charts with seven goals in as many games, Jackson was unhappy with his individual displays.

He said: "I thought I was pretty average throughout the tournament, no real high points or low points. When you lose the way we did you look at what you could have done differently."

Jackson returns to the Netherlands next week to finish his club season with HGC. The next big international tournament is the Champions Trophy in July before a return to New Delhi for the Commonwealth Games in the autumn.

Holt keen to get Eurostar's golden ticket

Picture: DAVID PLUMB



GONE: Daish could lose players

By **STEVE TERVET**

EBBSFLEET United bosses hope to tie up a new sponsorship deal with Eurostar this week as the club continues to navigate choppy financial waters.

The existing deal with the high-speed train operator ends in May, and the Fleet can scarcely afford to lose one of their main backers at the end of a season which could yet see the majority of Liam Daish's playing squad released.

Three years ago, Ebbsfleet signed one of the largest sponsorship deals in non-league football with an arrangement that also saw the club lose its former name, Gravesend & Northfleet.

Designed to put Ebbsfleet International Station and the community of Ebbsfleet on the map, the deal has served the Fleet well and chairman Duncan Holt, who held talks with Eurostar on Thursday, is now anxious to put pen to paper once again.

He said: "We were very keen to explain what a fantastic opportunity this is for them.

"Over the last three years, Eurostar have had great publicity from us getting to the FA Trophy final [in 2008], the name change and the whole MyFootballClub story. However, we haven't quite got them ingrained in the club in the way we would have liked."

Ebbsfleet's perilous position in the Blue Square Premier underlines the need for the stability a new deal would bring, with Holt admitting relegation is a very real possibility.

"It's starting to look tight," he said. "I'm sure it will go down to the last game of the season. We do have plans in place, to play in Blue Square South, but relegation changes a lot of things.

"Suddenly we would be playing Boreham Wood rather than Luton or Wrexham and it would have a huge effect on the playing budget."



HOPE: Paul Farbrace has searched worldwide

KENT CLOSE IN ON OVERSEAS FAST BOWLER

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

Coach in talks with two international seamers to replace the injured Clark



KENT head coach Paul Farbrace is in advanced talks with two genuine international quick bowlers and is hopeful one will sign as an overseas player for the first half of the season.

The county's search for a new bowler comes in the wake of the news, exclusively reported on our website www.kentnews.co.uk, that Australian seamer Stuart Clark (pictured right) would not be arriving as the club's overseas pro due to concerns about his fitness.

Farbrace, who is preparing for his first season as head coach at St Lawrence, was made aware by Clark about a month ago that he may struggle to see out his three-month stint with the county, after a back injury took longer than expected to heal.

Consequently, Farbrace has been scouring the cricketing globe to find a replacement and has this week been in discussion with two impressive quick bowlers and their international coaches.

"I'm talking to two international bowlers and we are excited by both of them in the sense that they are high quality bowlers who would both bowl good overs," Farbrace told Kent on Sunday.

"The difficult thing in getting someone in, is they have to have played so many Test matches or One-Day Internationals in the last 12 months and have a central contract to constitute being an overseas player. These are the new rules set by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"It's very difficult to find players that fit into that category, who are both available and won't be playing in the Indian Premier League or involved in the World Twenty20."

With less than a month to go until the start of the county season, the new bowler, should he sign, will definitely not be available for the County Championship opener against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

That's because both players Farbrace is talking to are involved in the Indian Premier League and obtaining a work permit for an overseas players takes time.

He said: "Both players we are talking to are involved in the IPL and so wouldn't be available until after April 25 when the final finishes, unless their team doesn't make the final and they may be able to arrive a few days earlier. That means they would miss the first two championship games.

"If we don't get one of those we are likely to run out of time, purely because it takes six weeks to get a work permit turned around. If we ended up without an overseas player we would be thin on the ground, but what it does mean is the other boys on the staff can stake a claim to play.

"That's what they are on the staff to do – play, but we are still hopeful of signing someone."

If the club fail to get an overseas bowler to help bolster their attack, which would look threadbare with just Amjad Khan, Robbie Joseph and Simon Cook to call on in the seam department, it won't be down to finances. Farbrace, a former assistant coach of Sri Lanka, insists the club are firmly behind recruiting an overseas star, providing it's the right one.

"The treasurer and the chairman have both said 'we want you to have an overseas player' provided they are what you want," Farbrace said. "No-one has said since the Clark decision: 'great that's a way to save money.'

"Everyone has been supportive, but we are all mindful that we are not in a great position financially, so we have to ensure that if we bring someone in they have to add quality and not just someone that comes in and earns his money."

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EAST KENT EDITION

ISSN 1749-509-1